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Soldiering on

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Time takes toll

Restoration work starts on 120-year-old set of bells

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£7m bus station is on target for spring

A £7 MILLION new bus station in Stourbridge is taking shape with work to fit out the main building under way and some phases of the development nearing completion.

Work to create the new interchange in Stourbridge has been ongoing since the previous outdated station was closed in October 2010 and the site cleared.

Bosses from transport authority Centro aim to have the new station, in Foster Street East, up and running by the spring and today said work was continuing to progress.

Work to constrict the steel frame, glazing and roof of the main station building has been completed and installation of new customer information screens and fire alarms has started.

Officials said construction of new public toilets, a retail area and manager's office within the building was also nearing completion.

They said work was also progressing on the neighbouring Finger Island building with the steel frame, glazing and roof completed.

Work has now started on constructing the internal layout of the building.

The new station will include 11 upgraded stands. Each will be fitted with automatic doors which will open when a bus arrives.

Safety fears over surface

URGENT talks will be held after a spate of crashes on a Stourbridge road sparked fears someone could be seriously injured.

Highways chiefs and emergency services will try to find a solution after more than 30 accidents in Oldnall Road, Wollescote, in the last three months. Drivers say the road surface needs to be relaid and they claim it is difficult to stay in control

Dudley Council has already vowed to carry out tests on the road.

Councillor Paul Woodall

Councillor who threw bowl at wife resigns

A TORY councillor who admitted an assault charge after throwing a pudding bowl at his wife's head has resigned from Dudley Council.

Paul Woodall announced his decision to council leader, Councillor Les Jones, after news of his court appearance sparked calls for him to go.

Woodall, who was elected two years ago as ward member for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, pleaded guilty to assault by beating at Dudley Magistrates Court last Thursday.

His wife Joanne was left with a one-inch cut to her forehead and blood pouring down her face.

The 45-year-old, of High Street, Wall Heath, will be sentenced on February 23. Councillor Jones said: "He has formally resigned as ward member for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath. I understand he feels he needs some time without the public interest to sort out his family issues. I think that he has made the right decision for himself, his family and the electorate."

Councillor Jones said the council seat is likely to remain vacated until the May elections.

Magistrates heard the couple, who have been married for two years, were having lunch on January 22 when an argument began after Woodall's wife discovered his job may be at risk. He began calling her abusive names and then Mrs Woodall, after throwing a TV remote at her husband, picked up her bowl as if to throw it at him. But he stopped her and the food went down his front.

Mrs Sukhi Rai, prosecuting, said Woodall had thrown his dish at her and it connected with her forehead.

Councillor David Sparks, Labour opposition leader on the council, previously said: "If he was a Labour councillor we would expect him to resign."

Leaving court Woodall said: "It is a personal matter."

£5m TO REPLACE STREET LIGHTING

MORE than £5 million will be spent on replacing thousands of street lights across the Dudley borough with energy-saving ones.

By Heather Large

It follows a trial on the Priory estate which saw 100 outdated lamps replaced with modern white lights.

Council bosses now plan to roll them out around the borough and around 27,000 lights will be converted or replaced.The council estimates the lamps, which use around 50 per cent less energy, would save the authority £150,000 a year. Maintenance costs for the lamps are also much lower.

Lighting levels can be cut using a dimming device when there is less traffic while still maintaining safe visibility for motorists and pedestrians. The total cost of the project is £5,054,000 and some of the cash will be spent on a new computer system which will also give council workers greater control of the lights and help reduce maintenance work.

A report by chief executive John Polychronakis said: "The replacement equipment would also carry a dimming module to allow the luminaire to be dimmed if and as required. In total around 27,800 units, 87 per cent of the borough total, would be converted or replaced."

The council is also putting aside £400,000 to replace dangerous or outdated lampposts in 2012/13.

Dudley Council has previously piloted 10 different types of energy-saving fittings in roads in the Priory area to establish which option offers best value.

A demonstration took place in Hazel Road given residents the chance to see how the new lights worked.

Councillor Alan Finch, who represents Castle and Priory, said: "Energy-saving lights are a good idea if they are saving the council money but safety is also very important.

"We need to ensure there is enough light so we are not encouraging anti-social behaviour. It could work well as long as there is enough light in the streets."

Floral inspiration is icing on the cake

Natalie Rees, aged 18, who produces bouquets of beautiful cakes

THEY may look like lavish floral bouquets but these creations are, literally, good enough to eat. They are cakes decorated as flowers and 18-year-old Natalie Rees is already seeing demand soar for the tasty treats.

An art and design student at Stourbridge College, Natalie spends hours on intricate designs. Bookings are already being made for christenings and she is hoping to tap into the wedding market in the summer.

Customers can decide the colour scheme and flowers they want and Natalie does the rest. The Valentine's bouquet pictured is £35 while the two medium bouquets are £23 each.

Each bouquet takes between four and six hours to create, and can include different kinds of sponge cake or even rocky road with marshmallows and biscuit.

Experimenting

Natalie has been a keen baker since receiving a cookery book for her fourth birthday and she has been honing her skills ever since.

She helped make cakes for a family friend's birthday last year, started experimenting and then created her company Bou Cakes at her home in Wolverley, near Kidderminster.

Natalie said: "It all happened by accident really but it has taken off so quickly.

"I would love to start doing some bouquets for weddings. I had seen some cupcakes designed as flowers before but I never thought about doing it as a career. It is hard work balancing work and college but it will all be worth it."

Suppliers Helix call in help to save firm

A LEADING school and office equipment supplier which is based in Lye has gone into administration.

Helix, which has its UK headquarters in Engine Lane, was founded 125 years ago,

David Bennett and Paul Addison, of Grant Thornton, have been appointed as joint administrators.

They are speaking to a number of interested parties and have received offers for the sale of the business as a going concern.

Helix, which has been owned by the Lawson family since it was founded as the Universal Woodworking Company, employs 38 at Lye.

Helix has expanded into home and office and craft products in recent years and has been at Lye since 1956.

Subsidiary businesses in Hong Kong and the United States are not involved in the insolvency process.

Mr Bennett said: "The Helix and Oxford brands are well established in the market and we are in discussions with several interested parties with a view to selling the business as a going concern."

The company started out making scholastic and technical drafting instruments including wooden rulers.

Its iconic maths sets were used by generations of school pupils.

£25m order won by M&E

A FIRM based at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, has won a £25million order to supply British mechanics and welders to maintain mine-resistant vehicles for the US military in the Middle East.

M&E employs 15 at its base at Wolverhampton Airport and more than 300 around the globe.

Founder Gary Attwood said that despite the recession M&E had gone from strength to strength.

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Dismay as lap-dancing club is given go-ahead

FEARS have been raised that the reputation of Stourbridge could be damaged after plans for a lap-dancing club on the first floor of the Academy nightclub were given the go-ahead.

The application was approved by Dudley Council's licensing committee on Tuesday, despite concerns from some residents.

Ward councillor Nicolas Barlow said: "It is disappointing that this decision was made but we will now have to just get on with it and see what happens.

"But, from speaking to people, it seems this is not the kind of place that they want in Stourbridge.

"We should be trying to compete with Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham and places like this will not help the town's reputation."

But Roger Bishton, who owns the club in Hagley Road, said the club will be "discreet".

The committee heard the lap-dancing venue will have its own entrance on the ground floor to keep customers separate from revellers in the nightclub.

There were no formal objections to the application and the police had raised no issues at the meeting.

Mr Bishton recently opened a new cabaret room on the second floor for live acts.

Lessons in how to keep babies calm

CLASSES for new parents showing them how to calm their baby's crying, avoid colic and get a restful night's sleep will be launched in Stourbridge.

BabyCalm is being set up by Sarah Hodgkins, aged 37, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, who is an occupational therapist, working with children with mental health problems.

She is also a therapist who teaches mothers how to hypnotise themselves to help them through childbirth.

Sarah will be launching her classes with a three-hour antenatal workshop for mothers-to-be and their partners at the Body Balance Holistic Centre, Victoria Passage, off High Street, this Saturday at 1pm.

Email sarahhodgkins@babycalm.co.uk or call 07782 212683 for details.

Fried and groom's wedding joy

Matthew and Kayleigh enjoy their fish and chip wedding breakfast. *Picture – www.kingsleystudios.co.uk*

FORGET posh nosh – when it came to their wedding breakfast nothing could be finer than fish and chips for Kingswinford couple Kayleigh and Matthew Prior.

The newly-weds, of Mount Pleasant, booked their entire 39-strong wedding party into their favourite chippie in Pensnett.

There they sat down for a hearty feast, ordering wine or beer from the restaurant but taking in their own champagne.

Meanwhile customers in less fancy attire toasted them from other nearby tables.

The couple had their ceremony at The Priory register office in Dudley before enjoying the meal at Goodies fish and chip shop, High Street.

"We love fish and chips and go to Goodies all the time," said Kayleigh, aged 24.

"The whole wedding party adored our feast and the waitresses at Goodies were really excited about it."

Following the trail of heroes

UNSUNG heroes who help communities across Dudley can be nominated for an annual awards ceremony through Twitter and Facebook for the first time.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, has launched the search for community champions for this year's Civic Awards.

People can put forward nominations by collecting a form from a library, online at www.dudley.gov.uk or by post.

Residents can also use the council's social media channels.

The Mayor's Civic Awards is hosted in association with Thomas Cook, Dudley, with local firm sponsoring each of the categories.

Nominees will compete for the Duncan Edwards award for sport, sponsored by Dudley healthy towns, the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, sponsored by Stourbridge College, the Frank Foley award for community spirit, sponsored by Dudley Building Society, and the Thomas Attwood award for education, sponsored by Computeach.

Nominations must be in by February 19.

Parish pancakes

VILLAGERS in Hagley are getting their frying pans ready for a parish pancake party on February 21. It will be held in the village's St Saviour's Church Hall, from 7pm and will also include a bar and beetle drive.

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Readers rush to sign up for new E&S app

HUNDREDS of iPhone and iPad users have rushed to download the Express & Star's new digital newspaper app.

And you can join them with a week's free trial that offers full access to Britain's best-selling regional paper.

Once the free Express & Star app is downloaded from iTunes to an iPad or iPhone, users can flick through the pages of the most recent electronic edition .

Shortly after each newspaper is published, users get a pixel-perfect replica of the newspaper to view the latest news, sport and opinion, even when offline.

Warehouse worker Jamie Skelding, aged 31, has subscribed to get all the latest news via the app on his iPhone.

The father of two, of Rosehill, Willenhall, said: "I've been reading the Express & Star for as long as I can remember so it is great to get it with the app.

"I would fully recommend it. I'd give it 10 out of 10. It is like having the paper in your hand, so I wouldn't be without it now. You get all the information you want with every single page, including the TV."

Wolves fan Mr Skelding, who works at AF Blakemore and Sons, Willenhall, has signed up for a monthly subscription.

"I love to read all the sport so it is ideal to keep up with the Wolves latest," he said.

Van driver Paul Powers, 54, of Marl Road, Netherton, subscribed to the app via the iPad he was given for Christmas.

"It is very good value and I have been very impressed. You can go on holiday and still get to read the paper via your iPad.

"I emailed an article to my brother which I knew he would like."

Subscribing via the iPad app costs £1.49 per week or £3.99 per month. The first week of access to downloads is free, giving you access to news, sport and opinion before committing.

To find out more, go to www. expressandstar.com/app

Reader Jamie Skelding is well 'appy with his E&S app

Code plea for teen workers

BUSINESSES in the Dudley borough which employ teenagers are being encouraged to sign up to a new code to ensure that their workers are being treated properly.

Employers can sign up, free of charge and families can ask businesses if they have signed up to the code. Those who do so will be recognised with a certificate they will be asked to display.

The code, written by the council's education investigation service, includes guidance on legal requirements, health and safety, safeguarding and suitable equipment.

Sales of debut book pass 100,000 mark

SALES of a Stourbridge author's debut novel have soared past 100,000 copies as he spends a third week at the top of the UK charts.

Sales of Before I Go To Sleep by Steve Watson have rocketed since it was chosen as the featured book in ex-This Morning TV presenters Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan's Book Club.

The novel was written while the 39-year-old, an audiology specialist, was working in London. It reached the top of the Sunday Times paperback charts six months after it was released – and has this week passed 100,000 sales.

The book tells the story of a woman who wakes up to find she does not recognise her life any more and she is married to a complete stranger. The tale is inspired by amnesia cases he encountered during his career.

Mr Watson was a pupil at The Wordsley School and King Edwards VI Sixth Form College in Stourbridge.

Concert show to aid charities

A CHARITY concert will be performed in the Black Country to raise funds for two charities in the region.

It will be staged by Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company and members will perform songs from musicals and films. The concert will be held at Dudley College on March 9 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.

Cash raised from the event will be split between Action Heart and the Georgina Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Last year's sold-out event raised £1,400.

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Taking time off work to go fighting the Taliban

JAMES Brown, an IT consultant, spent just three months of last year sorting out computer problems.

The rest of the time the Wollaston husband-to-be was fighting the Taliban on the front line in Afghanistan.

The 27-year-old is typical of a new breed of soldier playing an increasingly important role in the British military. He is a part- time troop.

The days when the Territorial Army meant weekends on adventure training courses are long gone. Now its members are filling in the gaps left by cuts to the full-time military.

Mr Brown, who marries fiancee Sarah Ball, 25, in April, served in the Upper Gereshk Valley with B Company 3 Mercian. He was the only TA member in his 35-strong platoon.

He said: "I wanted to do something that was the polar opposite of my job and so I joined the infantry. I volunteered for Afghanistan because I had been in the TA for five years and wanted to put the skills I had learned into practice. Otherwise, what is the point of learning them?

Fittest

"Everybody in the platoon was fine with me. I was among the fittest and my skill level was up to scratch.

"I had incidents with Improvised Explosive Devices, fired at people, got shot at, got motored and had a rocket propelled grenade fired at me. I set myself a test and passed by ticking all the boxes. You build a bond for life with people in those circumstances.

Back from the frontline, James Brown with fiance Sarah Ball

"But, unlike the regular army, you can change out of your 'greens' at the end of the day. I was away from work for a year and settled back into the routine without any problems."

Miss Ball said: "I did not want to stop him doing something he obviously wanted to do. It was difficult to start with but the TA was very supportive and I had a lot of backing from family and friends."

Mr Brown was not the only person making sacrifices when he was on the front line. It also impacted on his boss because he is one of only six employees at IT support company James Cash in Cradley Heath.

This dedication requires a similar commitment from employers with more than 100 firms in the West Midlands allowing key members of staff to spend 12 months with regular army, navy and RAF units.

This responsibility will grow with the strength of the Territorial Army increasing from 12,000 to 30,000 over the next 10 years as it plays an increasing role in military operations amid cuts to the regular army.

Mr Brown's employer James Cash is a 35-year-old former soldier who served for three years with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. He said: "At the time he was one of only three technicians on the staff and so it was a big ask but I was happy to support the military, which paid for a contractor to replace James while he was away.

"I do not regret doing it and would do the same again."

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thechronicle

£150,000 price tag for ambulance station sale

Five ambulance stations, including one in Stourbridge, have have gone up for sale with price tags totalling £755,000.

The other stations are at Wombourne, Oldbury, Cradley Heath and Halesowen.

Under the new set-up, two huge maintenance hubs will operate 24 hours a day in Willenhall and Dudley, serving 27 community stations across the region where paramedics respond to 999 calls. This will replace 13 traditional ambulance stations.

Stourbridge station also be replaced with on at the town's fire station, with the old base up for sale for £150,000

Wombourne station in Giggetty Lane will be replaced by a community base within the town's fire station, also in Giggetty Lane. The asking price for the station is £275,000.

Oldbury Ambulance Station in Low Town now has a price tag of £115,000 and will be swapped with a new community base on Granada Trading Estate. Old Hawne Lane, where Halesowen ambulance station is, will be replaced in the town's fire station and the building is now on sale for £115,000.

Cradley Heath's Lawrence Lane station is for sale at £100,000 and a new station at Cradley Enterprise Centre will replace it.

Staff at the two hubs will prepare, service and maintain the fleet of ambulances.

Paramedics will collect them from the hubs then go to their community stations, where they will respond to emergency calls. The aim is to cut down on crew "downtime".

Towing the line for cash

Ready to slog along 172 miles of canal towpath for Help for Heroes are friends, from left, Stuart Quarry, Mark Forrester and Mark Southall

A GROUP of friends will be walking along 172 miles of canal with the aim of raising at least £5,000 for wounded servicemen and women.

They were duet to set off from London Bridge on Tuesday, sleeping rough along the way and ending up at the Bridge Inn, Moss Grove, Kingswinford, five days later. Two of the three – Mark Forrester, from Wombourne, and Stuart Quarry, of Wordsley – are ex-servicemen. The third putting is Mark Southall, from Kinlet near Bewdley, who will be doing the walk as a tribute to his grandfather, who served in the First World War.

The proceeds will go to Help for Heroes – boosted by a fun day at the Bridge Inn on February 12. To donate visit www.bmycharity.com/londontokingswinford.

Charity want volunteers

A CHARITY helping to find homes for cats in Stourbridge is looking for volunteers.

Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch will hold an information drop-in event on February 18 from 11am until 2pm for people to find out about the roles.

Branch co-ordinator Rob Hall said: "I'd like to encourage any local people who love cats and would like to help to pop in."

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NHS

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Inside the racking room at Holden's brewery in Woodsetton,Denis Briscoe was stacking the beer ready for delivery to the pubs of the Black Country when this photograph was taken back in January, 1967

The end of the line at Holdens Brewery in January, 1967, as crates of beer are picked up on the forklift, ready to be loaded onto the lorries by Ike Hughes of Coseley, who had worked for the firm for 24 years

Raise a glass as brewery gets ready for expansion

The late Edwin Holden who joined the brewery in 1965

Stan Stephens, of Dudley Camra, and Jonathan Holden with 40th Birthday Ale brewed to celebrate Jonathan's birthday

FAMILY-RUN Holden's Brewery has seen a number of changes in the industry during its near 100-year history.

MEMORY LANE

by Adam Burling

With real ale enjoying a renaissance with drinkers moving away from modern lagers, the firm is looking stronger than ever.

One of just 33 family-owned independent breweries in Britain with 21 pubs across the Black Country, it has announced plans that will see its Woodsetton site extended and its ale production increased from 50,000 pints a week to 75,000.

Steve Thompson, brewery liaison officer for The Campaign for Real Ale, said: "Holden's is one of the most successful breweries in the area because it has responded to the changes in the industry."

The brewery began when one man decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and become a shoemaker, but instead to follow the example of his father-in-law. Edwin Alfred Holden was born in 1875, the youngest of seven sons.

His father Daniel was a skilled shoemaker and after he left school, Edwin decided to join him and older brother Walter in the family business. But he later married Lucy Round, whose father Benjamin owned the Trust in Providence, in Washington Street, Dudley.

It changed his career path and the young couple became tenants and ran a number of pubs including the Atkinson's house The Britannia Inn, Netherton.

When Lucy's father died in 1900, her mother kept the licence of the Britannia and in 1904 the couple moved to the Struggling Man Inn, Dudley. The couple and their son Teddy later moved into The Park Inn, Woodsetton, a brewhouse.

They were there just six months when Edwin died in 1920. Lucy continued to operate the pub and Teddy was to follow in his mother and father's footstep.

The ensuing decades saw the company's expansion and the establishment of Edwin Holden's Bottling Company.

Before his death in 1981, Teddy had acquired several pubs including The New Inn, Rose & Crown, The Trumpet and extended the brewery. His son, Edwin, joined him in 1965. Together they increased the estate. His sons Jonathan and Edwin went on to increase the Holden's estate, which include the acclaimed Great Western in Wolverhampton and The Station, Codsall.

Jonathan, now a director, has been instrumental in the development of new products and hopes the expansion will represent "thousands of pounds investment".

Holden's Brewery in Woodsetton as it used to look

The Holden's Brewery site, George Street, Woodsetton,today but which is now to be expanded to cope with demand

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Quarry plans get green light after visit to site

CONTROVERSIAL proposals for the next stage of a development at a Kingswinford quarry have been given the go-ahead by planning bosses, despite fears that it could lead to increased traffic and debris.

Proposals to change the access to Ketley Quarry were among a host of applications submitted by site operators WCL Quarries.

The latest plans centre on the creation of new site offices, a weighbridge, new security fencing, increased car parking and opening up the use of the Dudley Road entrance.

Most of these have already been built and the applications are for retrospective permission.

Around 25 people, including ward councillors, have objected to the proposals.

Decision

The plans had been recommended for approval by council officers but, at last month's meeting, councillors agreed to visit the site before making a decision.

They gave the scheme the go-ahead during a meeting following a trip to the site last week.

Nearby residents claim levels of noise and dust have increased at the site recently.

But Andy Morris, for WCL, said the quarry had been in use since 1882 and that the work at the site would improve it for workers and residents.

Building skills for future

Mansell training manager Jeremy Lydiatt, right, with apprentice of the year Stephen Lediard and his linemanager Wayne Gwilt

THE Stourbridge-based Western region of construction business Mansell has been granted National Skills Academy for Construction status for its building projects.

The four-year programme begins in the spring and the achievement is seen as a major accolade for Mansell. Local employees will be offered construction training opportunities at all levels on site.

The company will develop an employment and skills plan.

The training hub for the programme will be based in Wollaston Road.

Chance to sit fit

SEATED exercise classes for the over 50s are taking place in Brierley Hill on Fridays. The sessions are run at Age UK Dudley's Merry Hill activities base. It will be held from 12pm for an hour. Send an email to merryhillactivitycentre@ageukdudley.org.uk or call (01384) 572365.

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thechronicle LETTERS

Motorists being forced from our roads

WITH regards to Phil Tonks' letter, the Government have been trying to force the motorist off the road for the past 25 years.

They have done this through fuel hikes, road tax, insurance, MoTs, speed cameras, roadside checks and a host of other things making it almost impossible for anyone, especially OAPs such as myself to afford a car.

Perhaps being a pensioner, I'm one of the lucky ones, I have a free bus pass, but I have also had a heart attack and also suffer from a lung disease, which means I cannot walk the distances to and from some of the bus stops.

Also when I use the bus, I find the lower deck full of perfectly able folk, who could have gone up stairs, or mothers with push chairs, (although these mothers have to be able to store their pushchairs somewhere).

The congestion is definitely another problem, for as I drive from Kingswinford to Stourbridge, it is stop-start, stop-start, every few yards. The cause of this? A double deck bus carrying three passengers and a few hundred yards in front another with just as many on board, further up the road, two or three single deckers, a couple probably empty, get past these and the congestion's gone, a journey that takes a bus one hour, takes a car 15 minutes.

What is needed is a complete review of our transport system, £5m is to be spent on bringing a train similar to the Metro, to run from Stourbridge to the Water Front at Merry Hill. Why stop there, why not carry on down the old coal line, across the back of the Fens Pool, down past the Crooked House and through Wombourne to link up with the existing line at Wolverhampton?

TONY DAVIES
(ex bus/truck driver)
Lower Gornal

Support for appeal to keep pet cats

I AM in support of Mrs Jane Bood's appeal, which will allow her to keep her 18 loved and well cared for cats.

Isn't it about time her neighbours and the Wolverhampton council chiefs left her alone? She is one of a rare breed of responsible cat owners who has gone to the expense of having her felines spayed and neutered and is giving her time, and what must be a great deal of her pension, to care for these helpless creatures.

Should the majority of cats be removed from her care, where will they go? As an active member of an animal rescue group and a life member of Cats Protection I can state that all animal rescue shelters throughout the country are full of unwanted animals.

MRS M PARSONS
Sedgley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
stourbridgechrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Why bother with the dross on television?

FOR many years after starting married life, I managed to stay away from owning a television. It wasn't until a few years ago, when my wife was given a TV/video player as a retirement gift, I succumbed. Now, looking at the available programmes, even on Freeview, I wonder why I bothered.

Who wants to continually change channels to get away from cookery, home improvements, police, idiot comedy etc. Are the TV planners not really capable of looking at what the public want to watch and putting on decent programmes? We still laugh at the old Morecambe and Wise, Dad's Army and Only Fools and Horses programmes. If there is nothing better to watch, there must be lots of unrepeated stuff from those programmes we could enjoy.

BBC Radio isn't much better. When our sons were still at home, they used to come home just before 10pm, say goodnight to their mom and I, then up to their bedrooms to listen to The Navy Lark. Now, my wife and I tend to read.

At least we can choose our books.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

No more advice on how to live lives

YET more official advice about our drinking habits has been released. Apparently its best if we leave it a couple of days between drinking alcohol.

This is another addition to the endless advice and guidelines about what we eat and drink, how often we do it and what quantity.

This is not and must not be any of the government's business. The relentless march of the state into our private lives has not been slowed by a change of government.

We need politicians who are going to tell us which rules and guidelines they are going to repeal, rather than the current addiction to legislation.

So no more advice or guidelines about what we do in our private lives please.

BILL ETHERIDGE
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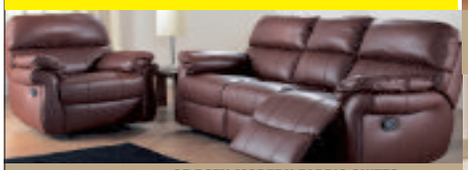

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Council takes landing carpets

A COUNCIL raided a row of flats in Stourbridge and stripped the landings of carpets and pot plants in a health and safety drive.

People living in the nine blocks of low rise flats in South Road, Stourbridge – many of them elderly – are outraged and upset after the move. They watched as the carpets and plants they had tended in the communal areas for years were taken outside.

And some of the plants disappeared quickly as passers-by took advantage of the windfall and took them away.

Dudley Council had warned some of the 36 council tenants and flat owners in a letter dated January 5, sent on behalf of the housing manager for Norton, to remove items such as furniture, carpets, curtains and plants – except for those in non-flammable pots – within 14 days or face having them taken away.

"It's ridiculous – health and safety gone berserk," said 81-year-old Beryl Haden, whose carpet she had fitted in the corridor outside her flat more than 20 years ago was among the victims of the council raid.

"They say the carpet could be a fire hazard – but there hasn't been a fire here.

"Now I'm worried that if we mop the floor in the hallway it could leave it slippery."

Councillor Adrian Turner said: "Items of furniture and personal belongings left in communal areas or on landings, which are a potential hazard and could cause an obstruction in the event of an emergency are being removed. Properly fitted carpets have not been removed and where loose carpets have been removed we will address concerns around potential slippery floors."

Piles of carpet stripped from the flats and left outside

Charity to run probe on fate of endangered home

A PENSIONERS' charity will help conduct a consultation over the future of a care home.

Officials from Age UK Dudley will carry out the probe into proposals to shut New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford.

More than 5,000 people have signed petitions protesting against the plans announced last year. Around 30 residents, some aged over 90, face being moved out if the closure goes ahead.

Dudley Council adult social care chief Councillor David Vickers claims the move would "ensure an open and transparent process" for the public to share their views.

The consultation has started and full details on the scheme are now available on the www.dudley.gov.uk/newbradley website. It is expected it will run until April before the findings are analysed and reported back to cabinet in July.

"No final decision on the options have been made and the council is open to consider any alternative option that meets the demand for older people's services now and in the future," said Councillor Vickers.

"We have listened to residents, have attended two public meetings and received letters and emails in relation to a proposal to close the home.

"We have asked Age UK Dudley to carry out the consultation programme on our behalf and we are confident that they will ensure an open and transparent process."

Lead campaigner Mac Scott MBE said he wanted to discuss it with the residents.

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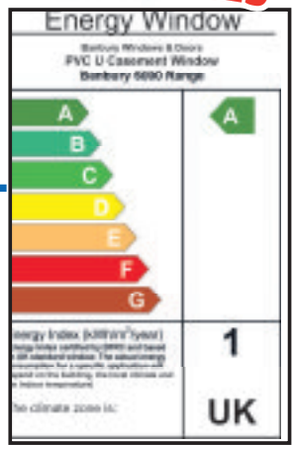

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Party time for Iris

Iris celebrates her 100th birthday with family and friends

A CLAIRVOYANT who has helped to raise thousands of pounds for hospitals and charities has celebrated her 100th birthday.

Iris Roberts marked the occasion surrounded by friends and family who gathered for a party at the Red House Nursing Home, in Kingswinford, where she lives.

And Mrs Roberts, better known as "Madam Iris", was delighted to receive her birthday card from the Queen. She was born Iris Reed and was raised in Willenhall, moving to Kingswinford later in her life.

Mrs Roberts held clairvoyant events to help raise cash for a number of good causes including the old Wordsley and Corbett Hospitals, in Stourbridge. She has two granddaughters and great-grandchildren.

Traders support market revamp

TRADERS have backed a revised layout for a £6 million revamp of Dudley's historic market place – as a 2,800-name petition against the development was presented to council chiefs.

The basic layout of the new market has been altered to include extra pedestrian walkways and more space for stalls after business owners opposed the plans. Councillors at the Central Dudley Area Committee were told that traders had approved the new proposals and that detailed designs would be drawn up in the coming weeks.

The petition had been collected before the council agreed to come up with new designs but campaigners presented it to the meeting.

And they warned councillors they would continue to fight to get the kind of market place built that they feel was suitable. Councillor Malcolm Davis, who has backed the campaign, told the committee: "If it wasn't for this petition then the original plans would have been railroaded through. These traders are professionals who know their stuff and this council must listen."

Under the plans the market place would be revamped and new stalls with canopies would be installed.

Reduced

The number of stalls would be reduced from the current 74 pitches but space would be provided so temporary stalls could be brought in on busy days.

Trader Len Lenihan, who runs a furnishings store on the market, said a group of stallholders would work with the council on new designs.

Councillor Angus Adams said : "We have come to an agreement over the basic layout."

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M-way drains work will mean delays for drivers

MOTORISTS may be facing up to 10 weeks of misery on a stretch of motorway in the Black Country due to a £2.1 million scheme to replace drainage.

The Highways Agency is carrying out work to replace drainage on the 1.7-mile carriageway from the M5 junction one for West Bromwich to the M6 junction eight for Wednesbury. The round-the-clock projectis expected to last around 10 weeks. Bosses said they have planned their schedule to cause the minimum disruption.

A new drainage system will be installed on both the north and southbound carriageways to prevent surface water collecting and to keep the road in a safe and serviceable condition.

Enforced

There will be narrow lanes running in both directions during the day with lane closures overnight. A 40mph speed restriction will be enforced throughout the works to protect roadworkers and motorists.

There will also be occasional overnight closures of slip roads and the main carriageway between the hours of 10pm and 5am to allow work to take place.

Wayne Norris, Highways Agency project sponsor, said: "This is routine but vital maintenance work to replace the current drainage system which has come to the end of its serviceable life.

"We have worked hard to design these works to minimise inconvenience to road users however, some delays will be inevitable as this is a very busy stretch of motorway.

Sponsored Zumba event

STOURBRIDGE'S Mary Stevens Hospice will stage a sponsored Zumba at Hagley Community Centre on February 19. They hope more than 600 will take part and help raise thousands for the hospice. Call (01384) 377778.

Home fight funds boost

Campaigners Phil Vanes, aged 63, Mac Scott MBE and Tom Attwood, 15, show off some of the funds they have helped raised for New Bradley Hall

CAMPAIGNERS have rallied to kickstart their fundraising drive to save a closure-threatened Black Country care home.

Two major fundraisers have helped bring in almost £1,800 towards the legal battle fighting for the future of New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford. A sell-out crowd at the nearby The Kingfisher Hotel for a Motown night recently helped bring in more than £1,000.

During the event, Summerhill School pupil Thomas Attwood also presented a cheque to the care home action group for about £800.

The teenager, whose grandfather Fred lives at the home in Compton Drive, led other young relatives on a walk from the home to the steps of Dudley Council house on a sponsored walk last year.

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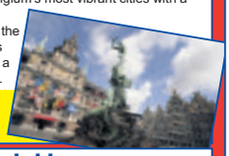

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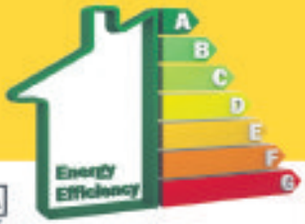

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NEWS in brief

First stage for zoo work started

WORK has begun on the first stage of a revamp of Dudley Zoo – kick-starting a £10 million project to link it with two other tourist attractions.

A new office block at the zoo at the back of the old Gala Bingo is expected to be completed by April.

It will be the first finished stage of the development that will see a new visitor centre and main entrance along with a road linking it to the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Guys and Dolls is ready for theatre

A THEATRE group near Stourbridge will be staging its own version of a Broadway musical this month.

Comic Theatre Company is performing Guys and Dolls from February 16 to 18 at Sunfield Community Theatre, in Woodman Lane, Clent. Performances start at 7.30pm with tickets at £12. There will also be a Saturday showing at 2.30pm where tickets cost £10 and £5. For tickets call 01562 730381.

Bogus collectors

BOGUS charity collectors have been targeting Hagley, near Stourbridge say police. Residents reported a man collecting bags bearing Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice logo. Police say genuine bags have glossy flyers and collectors wear uniforms.

Cash-strapped council may scrap its free parking sites

FREE parking could be scrapped at some sites around the borough of Dudley and on-street parking meters installed as the council tries to boost its coffers.

Dudley Council is considering introducing charges at some of its small surface level car parks, which are currently free, to raise money as its tries to shave millions off the budget.

It is also looking at introducing on-street parking meters in town centres is another option the council is considering.

But cabinet member for transport Councillor Patrick Harley said while charges could be introduced at some sites, more free parking could be introduced elsewhere.

Feasible

The move to introduce charges could generate up to £375,000 over the next three years, according to a report that was due to go before the cabinet on Wednesday.

The small surface level car parks in the borough include one in Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal.

Councillor Harley said: "We have more than 70 surface car parks and we only charge at just under half of them.

"It wouldn't be feasible to charge at all of them because of the costs involving installing the machines and the security."

Bid to build 80 homes gets closer

THE building of more than 80 homes on the site of Dudley College's Castle View campus have moved a step closer after a developer lodged an application for the scheme with council bosses.

Bellway Homes has submitted a full planning application to replace teaching buildings and workshops on the site, off the Parade, with a housing development including low-cost properties.

The old campus is being sold off by the college to help fund its project to create a new "learning quarter" in Dudley town centre – including a new sixth form centre in Priory Road and a vocational centre in Tower Street.

The Castle View site along with the college's campuses at Mons Hill and Wolverhampton Street will be surplus once the new facilities open.

Developer Bellway Homes has already been granted outline planning permission.

Poetic appreciation from young fans

Jacqueline Wilson signs a copy of her new book and receives a poem from Rikki-Mae Stevens and Katy-Jo Burton

BEST-SELLING children's author Jacqueline Wilson was greeted by hundreds of fans at a book signing in Dudley – but admitted many of them get tongue-tied when they meet her.

The writer of the Tracy Beaker stories signed copies of her latest release, The Worst Thing About My Sister, at WH Smith store in the Merry Hill centre. Fans started queueing an hour before she appeared. The author, who launched the Dudley Children's Book Group in 1998, said she was amazed by how many fans turn out so see her.

But she added: "I often see all the children in the queue chatting away saying they will ask this and that but when they get in front of me they are completely struck dumb.

"But I always enjoy talking to them and some will email my fan club afterwards to apologise for being so shy, which is sweet."

Among the fans getting their books signed were friends Rikki-Mae Stevens and Katy-Jo Burton, both aged eight, of George Road, Halesowen.

The pair, who had written a poem and letter for her, said they were "really excited" to meet her.

Warning of theft given to walkers

WALKERS are being warned to be on their guard against thieves as police launch a crackdown on vehicle crime at a beauty spot near Stourbridge.

Patrols at car parks on the Clent Hills have been increased.

Police and community support officers are speaking to drivers and handing out notices telling thieves all valuables have been removed from cars.

Vehicle crime is a year-round problem at Clent Hills, with handbags, mobile phones, MP3 players, laptops, digital cameras and sat navs all being taken.

CSO Sue White, of the Hagley and Rural Local Policing Team, said: "Most of the thefts happen on the Walton Hill or Uffmore Wood car parks, which are more isolated.

"The main Nimmings Wood car park is not so much of a problem, as there is a car park attendant.

"They usually take place at weekends, and we believe the offenders watch people place handbags and other valuables into their boots of their cars, and then strike after seeing them walk off.

"Although we patrol the car parks whenever we can, we cannot possibly cover all of the locations, so we really need to get the message across to people."

"Thefts from vehicles cause a considerable amount of distress."

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Advertisement Feature

Stourbridge slimmers on a mission to solve 'National Obesity Crisis'

Local slimmers are on a mission to help Stourbridge and surrounding areas to lose weight after a new survey found that 67 per cent of people in the town think that obesity is 'a national crisis' however, 75 per cent want to slim down themselves.

The launch of Slimming World's Let's Beat Obesity Together in Stourbridge comes as the club's National Slimming Survey reveals that our down-to-earth residents in the West Midlands shun healthy lifestyle advice from celebrities and sports stars and instead take their lead from people in their local community, like friends, family and local health professionals.

Launching in all local Slimming World groups week commencing 13th February, the Let's Beat Obesity Together campaign will run for 12 weeks and encourage family, friends and the local community to work together to make Stourbridge a healthier place to live. The clubs are hoping to inspire as many people as possible to join the weight loss challenge for a slimmer, healthier and happier future.

"It's telling that so many people in Stourbridge see obesity as a national crisis," says Marie Hounslow, Slimming World Consultant at Greenfields Primary School. "And it's no surprise that so many people want to lose weight. When you're feeling down about your size it can take over every aspect of your life, from your health and happiness to your work and relationships.

"It's something we know all about in my Slimming World group as, meeting every week to share our ups and downs, our motivations and our practical tips and ideas for healthy living, we've all become close friends. We help each other through our most difficult times, build our confidence together and celebrate our successes together."

Now, with the average person in Stourbridge wanting to lose 2st 2lbs, Marie is hoping to show the local community how, with a powerful package of group support, a healthy low fat eating plan and guided activity programme, it's possible to lose weight without giving up the food you love.

"Losing weight doesn't have to be a joyless experience," says Marie. "You don't have to go hungry and you don't have to deprive yourself of your favourite foods either. It's about regular support and making small, realistic changes that you can keep up in the long term. By sharing ideas, inspirations and local knowledge, the slimmers in my group have learned how to make clever choices for a healthier lifestyle. We'd love anyone who'd like to find out more to come join us at our Let's Beat Obesity Together launch party."

For more information visit www.slimmingworld.com or call 0844 897 8000 for your local group!

During the 'Let's Beat It Together' campaign anyone who joins their local Slimming World group between 13 February and 25 February and buys a 12-week Countdown to take part in the challenge will get free membership worth £10 plus 2 weeks free worth £9.90 – a total saving of £19.90.

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Dave Struckett and Paul Marshall send down a bell

Volunteer Andy Gray watches one of bells being lowered

Bell of a restoration as church rings the changes

A BELL of a restoration job has broken out at a Lye church.

The years have taken their toll on the eight bells at Christ Church they have been taken for a major makeover.

The bells have been lowered from their tower for the first time in more than 120 years to be restored.

Because of their age the bells were only rung occasionally, but thanks to a successful fundraising drive – which raised around £40,000 – restoration is now under way, and will allow the bells to ring out on a regular basis.

Specialists have removed the bells with each one carefully lowered using hand operated pulleys through two trapdoors to the ground.

They will specially cleaned and tuned before having their clappers replaced.

Made in Belgium by Severin Van Aerschodt of Leuven, the bells have ornate features, markings and inscriptions unlike most English-made bells of the 1800s. They vary in size from 0.75cwt (35kg) to 3.5cwt (180kg) and are an alloy of copper and tin making them lighter than traditionally made bells.

Special

Parishioners have worked for almost three years to raise the cash through donations, grants and fundraising . Events have included a music hall and jazz evening, skittles night and quiz evenings.

Chairman of the church bell restoration project, Bob Field, said: "We are really pleased to finally have the work under way as it has been a long time.

"It is the first time they have ever been taken from the tower so it is special."

The Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust has given the project £15,000 with £5,000 coming from the Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

The remainder of the money came from donations to the restoration project.

The replacement pieces, including new headstocks and clappers, have to be expertly designed. Joists are also to be replaced as the existing ones date back to 1885.

Mr Field said: "This is a major scheme which has not only been supported by members of the church but also bell ringing groups across the area."

Steady as she goes . . . Andy Gray helps to lower the largest of the bells

Ringing the changes . . . Dave Struckett with the Christ Church bells that are due to be restored

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thechronicle

CLUB NEWS

Folk laws surround the robin

SEDGLEY MORNING TWG

THE ladies agreed that the talk by David Tideswell on "Robin Redbreast" was very interesting and we soon realised that David is very passionate about his favourite bird.

We were informed of the folk law surrounding the robin as well as the history and its use in advertising such as Robin starch, cigarettes, and wool.

In addition, we were told of the correct nesting boxes and positions in the garden to put them, as well as the correct food, including good quality seed and mealworms.

The morning continued with a bring and buy sale followed by a beetle drive which caused much amusement.

Some members are going to see Sister Act at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, this month and there will be other visits arranged in the future.

Everyone agreed that they enjoyed the Christmas lunch at the Himley Hotel on December 15 and the shopping visit to Webbs of Wychbold garden centre near Worcester,

The Floral Arts group theme for January was members' own interpretation of winter.

Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild meets on the first Thursday of the month at All Saints Church Hall, Vicar Street, Sedgley, from 10am to noon.

New recruits are welcome at club

Left, last year's Highgate Probus chairman, Cynthia Haynes, this year's chairman, Isabel Mason, and the vice-chair, Sue Booker

HIGHGATE PROBUS

HIGHGATE Ladies Probus Club held their Christmas dinner at The Terrace restaurant Brownhills.

Members and guests enjoyed a lovely meal and after a toast to the Queen the afternoon was rounded off with a raffle, the main prize being a meal for two donated by The Terrace and won by Hilda Skett.

The club meets on the second Monday of each month at Broadway United Reform Church, Gillity Avenue, Walsall, at 10.15am. The talk at the February 13 meeting is The Englishman's Castle is his Home.

Highgate Ladies Probus Club is open to retired or semi-retired ladies and new members are always welcome.

Dive in to world of action

WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

WALL Heath Flower Club welcomed Julie Pearce who certainly started our 2012 demonstrations with a bang.

Her title was Sporting Life. She took us to the dizzy heights of skydiving to the depths of potholing.

Her first arrangement with spring flowers was from her horse riding days. Then came tennis with yellow roses and tulips on a metal frame.

Skydiving was on a beautiful large pink vase and she used phormiums, pink, orchids, carnations and gerberas. Potholing was done in orange flowers and lastly came rock climbing in white for white horses seen in the caverns. These were white lilies, tulips, lizianthus with fern and eucalyptus.

The club meets every fourth Tuesday and visitors are welcome, £5 per visit to include refreshments. For further information contact Pauline (01384) 271430.

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Rolling out a week of fun with skating and football

ROLLER skating and football will be among the half-term activities at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre.

Events will be held at the centre, starting on Monday, February 13, and continuing throughout the week.

Children will be able to skate around the sports hall when Jerry's Roller Disco visits the site on Monday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

It will cost £4 per child for one session. Skates can be hired for 50p.

A variety of sports and games including football, street dance and team games are on offer to youngsters aged eight to 12.

The activities will run on February 13 and 15 from 9.30 to 11.30am and cost £3.60.

On February 14, five to 15-year-olds can try out trampolining. Beginners can take part at 9am, 10am and 11am, while advanced students can attend at midday and 1pm.

Sessions cost £4.60 and must be booked in advance.

Gymnastics lessons for beginners and improvers aged five to 15 will be held on February 15 at midday and 1pm.

Recommend

The lessons, which last one hour, cost £4.60.

Pre-booking at reception is recommended for most of the half-term holiday activities.

For more information or to book a place, call 01384 812800 or log on to www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

MPs call on Home Secretary to back fight on metal theft

BLACK Country MPs campaigning for a ban on cash payments to fight metal theft were calling this week for more measures including a licensing scheme to replace the present registration system.

A cross-party group of politicians were due to discuss an overhaul of the scrap metal industry on Tuesday, with Home Secretary Theresa May expected to respond for the Government. The MPs, including Stourbridge Tory Margot James and Dudley South Conservative Chris Kelly, called for the debate following the statement by Mrs May that the Government would ban cash payments for scrap and would remove a £1,000 cap on fines for metal theft.

The debate will be led by Graham Jones and Mr Kelly, joint chairmen of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Combating Metal Theft.

The motion, which is subject to a vote, calls on the Government to urgently introduce a package of measures to coincide with the cashless system. They want a licensing scheme for scrap metal dealers to replace the registration scheme, a licence fee to fund the regulation of the licence and greater police powers to close unscrupulous scrap metal dealers.

They also want police to be allowed to search and investigate all premises owned and operated by scrap metal dealers. Banning cash payments has been a long-term aim of Mr Kelly as well as Miss James, West Bromwich Labour MP Tom Watson and Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin.

Bird quiz on centre's trail

YOUNGSTERS can learn all about birds of prey at a garden centre near Stourbridge.

A quiz trail is being held at The Falconry Centre at Webbs Garden Centre, West Hagley.

It will run next week from February 13 to 17 at the base, which houses more than 80 birds of prey from around the world.

Children will be asked questions about the animals they have seen on the trail, which runs from 11am.

Children can take part free, with the accompanying adult ticket priced at £3.80.

Pupils go political

Northfield Road Primary pupils in Dudley Council House

SCHOOL pupils from Dudley became politicians for the day during a visit to the town's council house. Youngsters from Northfield Road Primary School, Netherton, were shown around the main chamber at Dudley Council House before staging a political debate of their own. They were joined for the event by youngsters from Quarry Bank Primary School to discuss the importance of walking to school.

Water bills will increase above rate of inflation

WATER bills for millions of customers will rise above inflation as the latest round of increases.

Homes supplied by South Staffs Water are facing a 6.4 per cent increase, one of the biggest in the UK.

The move means the Walsall-based water company is adding £8 to annual bills, taking them to £140 a year.

It supplies water but not sewerage services to around 1.3 million people from Cannock to Stourbridge and West Bromwich.

The price hike is above the national average of just 5.7 per cent and is the fourth highest imposed across Britain.

But there was slightly better news for neighbours getting water and sewerage services from Severn Trent, whose bills are going up by five per cent.

It will add £16 a year to the average bill – £8 for water and £7 for sewerage services – which will now be around £325. Severn Trent has more than eight million customers including in Stafford, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

The rise, controlled by water regulator Ofwat, is based on inflation at its peak of 5.2 per cent last year.

It is now 4.2 per cent.

Ofwat chief executive Regina Finn said: "Customers told us they wanted bills kept down, while maintaining safe, reliable water supplies.

Remain

"We challenged companies hard to deliver this.

"Our decision meant that, before inflation, average bills would remain broadly stable between 2010-15.

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The changes will come into effect on April.

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RULES: Entrants must be aged 18 or over. Closing date for entries is Friday 17th February 2012. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after closing date will receive the post. There is no cash alternative. The prize will be issued in vouchers. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the Express & Star may not enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

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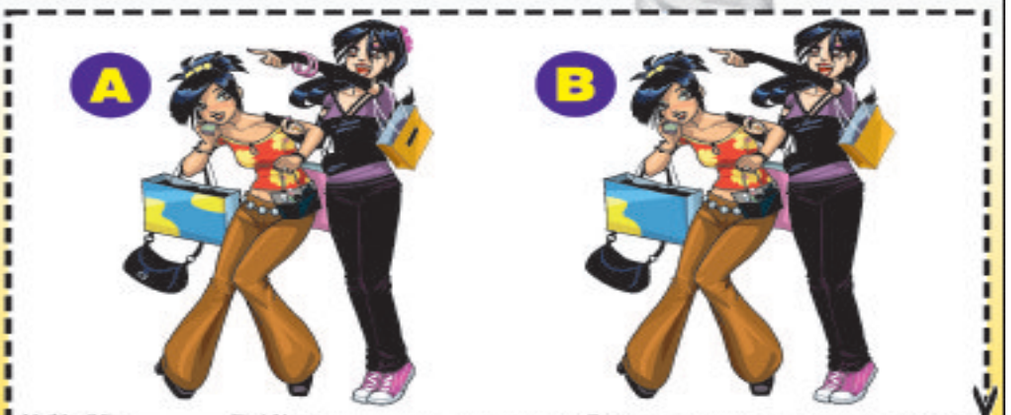

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RULES: Entrants must be aged 18 or over. Closing date for entries is Friday 17th February 2012. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after closing date will receive the post. There is no cash alternative. The prize will be issued in vouchers. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the Express & Star may not enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

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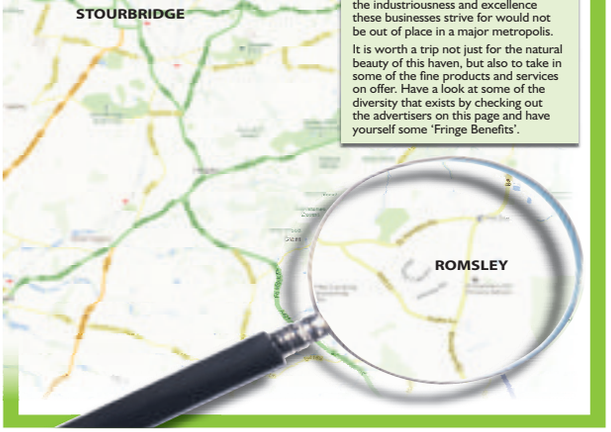

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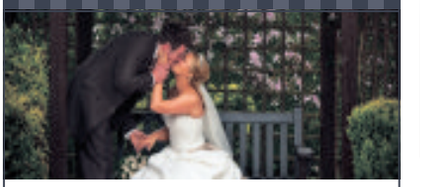

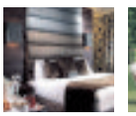
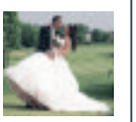

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Thousands rejected for job as bus driver

THOUSANDS of people who applied to be bus drivers in the West Midlands have been rejected.

Many are turned down for penalty points on their driving licences, it has emerged. Scores of vacancies for bus drivers remain unfilled.

National Express West Midlands took on 420 bus drivers over the last year out of 4,500 applicants. A spate of older drivers retiring created 170 more spaces. But, despite the high number of people looking for jobs, bosses are still seeking more because of the number that failed to make the grade.

Tests

They blamed the failure rate on applicants having points on their driving licences.

The bus industry standard is to accept drivers with three points – the equivalent of one minor speeding offence. But National Express does not allow anyone to pass the interview if they have any points at all.

The company also runs literacy and numeracy tests and some applicants failed those as well.

Trainees who make the grade are put through their paces at the firm's training centre in Walsall where trainees are tested on theory and their driving is assessed.

Ballcock king who tapped into market of making brass

Stephen Carter's photo of the inside of the C H Edwards castings works, Bilston

Just one of the many pictures from the past –this shows how the works had been extended since 1916

Charles and Sarah Edwards in May 1973

From being the Ballcock King of England, to a major shareholder in Wolves, Charles Edwards led a colourful life. MARK ANDREWS looks at the impression he left on the Black Country

THEY called him the King of the Ballcocks. But he was pretty big in taps, too. When it came to making brass castings for the plumbing industry, Charles Edwards was master of all he surveyed.

These pictures, belonging to Mr Edwards' grandson Stephen Carter, perfectly capture the way thousands of people in the Black Country would have lived when they were taken in 1938.

By day, the Millfields district of Bilston reverberated to the heavy thrum of the huge machinery and the dull thud of metal being pressed into shape. By night, the same area would be buzzing around the countless pubs which thrived in the area.

Banter

People worked together, drank together, and lived together, in the terraced houses which lined the narrow streets that surrounded this industrial heartland. They exchanged banter on the factory floor, and they carried on over a pint or two after work.

"They were very close-knit communities," says Brian Fellows of Bilston historical society. "It was the same with Stewart and Lloyds, and with John Thompson. Whole families worked there for generations."

So big a part did the company play in the Bilston community, that in 1928 a street was given the name Chem Road, taken from the initials of C H Edwards, Millfields.

In its day, the company was one of the world's leading producers of brass taps and ball valves. It was also one of the first companies to employ large numbers of women – at one point he had 200 female workers in his foundry.

Charles Henry Edwards was born in Stephenson Street, Chapel Ash, in 1888. He left school when he was 12 and worked for his uncle in one of the many metal working businesses in the area. He met his future wife, Sarah Nixon, at a political meeting at Wolverhampton's market patch.

Family legend has it that Sarah and her family emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1909 partly to escape his unwanted advances.

"He was thought to be rather below her in social class," says Mr Carter. Undeterred, he pursued her to Canada, travelling by boat twice to try and win her hand.

"On the second occasion in 1912 he had convinced her parents that he had made enough of himself to be worthy of her," adds Mr Carter, who is keen to hear if anybody has memories of working at the foundry.

A year after he got married he felt he had picked up sufficient experience of his trade to go it alone, and he formed C H Edwards.

Almost by accident, he became one of the major shareholders in Wolverhampton Wanderers after buying a stake from the proverbial man in the pub.

"I recall him telling me that when the Wolves went bust in 1923, shares in the new company were being offered around all the pubs in Wolverhampton to anyone who would buy them.

Congratulate

"He bought 100 shares and at one stage was the ninth largest shareholder in the Wolves," says Mr Carter.

He sold his shares to Wolverhampton tycoon John Ireland, who would become Wolves chairman, in the early 1970s. He was also the captain of Oxley Golf Club in Wolverhampton, and donated the C H Edwards Cup to the club.

The company was taken over by the Delta Metal group in 1961, and went the same way as much of the Black Country's heavy industry in the 1970s as cheap plastic plumbing components began to supplant the traditional brass hardware.

In May 1973, the Mayor of Wolverhampton Arthur Storer called into their home in Wrottesley Road West to congratulate the couple on their diamond wedding anniversary.

They had five children, 15 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Stephen Carter, who is 61, works as a solicitor and notary public in the city, while his brother Robert was vicar of St Jude's Church in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, from 1994 and 2011.

Travel site claims on reviews are halted

TRAVEL website TripAdvisor has been banned from claiming all its reviews are by real travellers.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) said claims that all reviews on the site were genuine were "misleading".

The ruling came after complaints highlighted pledges on the TripAdvisor website. Online comments claimed: "Reviews you can trust", "read reviews from real travellers".

There have been concerns that some reviews on the popular site, which covers hotels, resorts and other destinations, are written by people connected to the destinations themselves but passed off as the experiences of genuine tourists.

Genuine

The complainants said they understood that TripAdvisor did not verify the reviews and therefore could not prove they were genuine or from real travellers.

The ASA upheld the complaint and said that consumers would take the claims on the website to mean they could be certain that the reviews posted were from genuine travellers.

TripAdvisor said it used "advanced and highly effective" fraud detection systems. But it said it was "not practical" for them to screen each review manually before it was posted.

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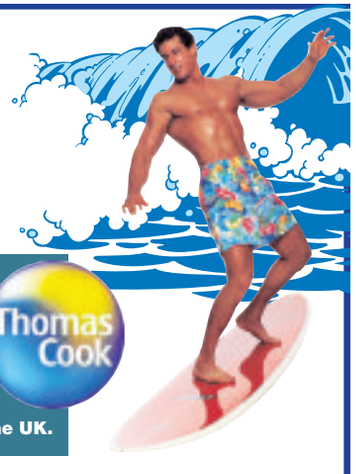

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Karaoke on the move for gamers

KARAOKE video game fans can take their singalong fun on the move with **Just Sing Vol 2** for the Nintendo DS.

Success in the singing games allows you to unlock extra outfits for your avatar. The microphone allows the game to judge your peformance and you get an acappella playback of your attempt to match Lady Gaga, or whoever. But there are no music videos and a 20 track selection is small, even though it does benefit from selections by Gaga, Rihanna and Owl City.

This is likely to keep youngsters occupied during a long road trip, but mum and dad may need earplugs.

Get Up And Dance aims to blend Nintendo Wii dance fun with a fitness option involving regular dancing in front of the telly. You would have to be pretty dedicated to make a major impression on your wobbly bits but it is certainly more fun than jogging.

Featuring the video to the selected song seems a good idea but having your avatar bouncing around in front of it can be irritating. The music selection is so varied it runs the risk of pleasing no-one while trying to please everyone, ranging from Jessie J's sharp pop to Billy Ray Cyrus' clunking country music. **LB**

Glamorous Margi is looking forward to being Nana Gaga

DUBBED the 'Queen of Liverpool' by Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren, actress and TV presenter Margi Clarke is looking forward to letting rip about the menopause and men when the Hormonal Housewives tour comes to the West Midlands.

A blonde bombshell from the Merseyside punk scene, Margi exploded onto TV screens in the 1980s on such youth shows as The Tube and The Word, starred in the films Letter to Brezhnev and Blonde Fist, and was Queenie in factory-set TV drama Making Out. More recently, she played Tyrone's mother Jackie Dobbs in Coronation Street, Joan in Family Affairs, caused mayhem on the costa in Benidorm, and was a trendy motorbike riding grandmother in Waterloo Road.

The last role particulary appealed to Margi. Mother to a teenaged daughter and a settled adult son, she said: "I can't wait until I am a grandmother in real life. Can you imagine it? I'd be Nana Gaga!"

Once as famous for her glamorous look as her Mersey motormouth, Margi says the transition from glam girl to potential gran is a relief. "I am 58 and I feel I am above the game now. I have put the stilettoes away. It is a liberation of sorts." She revealed: "A lot of people think because you have some level of fame that you must be rich. I was signing on the dole last November." Now she is relishing a tour of the country with two other actresses, having stepped in to replace fellow Coronation Street actress Beverley Callard, who was forced to pull out due to ill health. Her co-stars are Kay Purcell, from Tracy Beaker and Emmerdale, and comedienne Laura Checkley.

"Watch out, there's three crazy ladies coming to your town," said Margi.

"Men are invited too, I love men, no need for them to be afraid. Our show is lots of fun. Women used to get together and go to the bingo hall, now they're going to the theatre. I think that's an evolution and it's great."

Hormonal Housewives, written by husband and wife team Julie Coombe and John McIsaac, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on March 13 and Lichfield Garrick on April 17 and 18.

Leon Burakowski

Expect some forthright Scouse wit and wisdom from Margi Clarke

Galloping in for a pub gig

BETH Jeans Houghton supports her new album of baroque orchestra pop, Yours Truly Cellophane Nose, by galloping into Birmingham with her band The Hooves of Destiny, for a gig at the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on February 29.

Veteran actor excels as an elderly grump

On Golden Pond, Wolverhampton Grand

THE grumpy old man's dry sense of humour, eccentric ways and obsession with death could not stop you liking him. The 84-year-old actor played the part to perfection.

On Golden Pond, which packed Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre last week, was quite charming. An old man celebrating his 80th birthday had has his heart won over by a teenager who taught him to enjoy life again as they enjoyed fishing trips. The role of Norman Thayer Jnr was played by Richard Johnson, absolutely believable as the restless old man who had obviously had a strained relationship with only daughter Chelsea. With Hollywood actress and former I'm a Celebrity star Stephanie Powers, as his wife Ethel, the play ran through the themes of growing old, memories, and the chance of reconciliation.

The classic film of On Golden Pond won three Academy Awards. This production is definitely a winner too.

Sue Attwater

Nostalgia still sounds fresh

That'll Be The Day, Wolverhampton Grand

THIS roller-coaster ride of popular music from the 50s to the 70s performed by 11 multi-talented singers, dancers and musicians still has the ability to come up fresh every time after more than 25 years on the circuit. This high quality production had the Grand audience singing and clapping along to this fantastic feel good show. **LJ**

Singers get an ovation

Beyond The Barricade, Wolverhampton Grand

VIRTUALLY filling the Grand Theatre, Beyond The Barricade again produced an exhilarating evening of powerful and tender songs from the musicals of recent years.

This group of four past principle singers of West End shows were simply in a class of their own for their versatile talent and deliverance of spine-tingling vocals. Their voices blended together superbly.

Songs from Phantom, Miss Saigon,The Lion King, Blood Brothers, Chess and Jersey Boys were just a few of those featured. David Fawcett's cheerful joking and introductions went down a treat. Finishing with the powerful songs from Les Miserables, the audience were on their feet showing their appreciation.

Les Jowett

Moving story of sister's love

AN American journalist learns that the Paris apartment owned by her husband once belonged to a Jewish family, sent to a concentration camp by the French authorities in the 1940s, in the moving **Sarah's Key (12)**. Then she discovers the shocking story of the girl Sarah locking her brother in a cupboard to hide him, and her determination to escape to release him.

This sombre film, with dialogue in French and English, tells the heartbreaking story of Sarah in flashback as the magazine writer, played by Kirstin Scott Thomas, delves deeper into the murky days of collaboration. It features a superb performance from Melusine Mayance as the young Sarah. I would have liked more of Sarah's story and less of the journalist's family troubles. Sarah's Key is available on DVD and Blu-ray. **LB**

Sabre's sharp

Maverick Sabre - Lonely Are The Brave

This young Irishman's urban soul-rap sound will probably take him on a Plan B trajectory from the streets to the charts. His vocal, similar to Paolo Nutini, may be too mannered for some but more will take to him.

Highlights on his debut album include Let Me Go with its swaggering brassy motif, the Amy Winehouse-like No One and Stax shimmer of I Can Never Be. Sabre is at Birmingham HMV Institute on March 6. **LB**

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Choice

WINTER WIPEOUT
BBC1, 6.15pm

Amanda Byram has had a lot on her plate in recent weeks. She's been promoting the benefits of outdoor exercise with British Military Fitness, prepping for a thousand-mile Sport Relief race, fronting new Sky show Don't Stop Me Now, and, alongside Richard Hammond, is one of the regular presenting team on this series. So, the obvious question is: has she ever had a go at the course herself? 'Erm no, because I'm so competitive I'm afraid I'll be rubbish!' she laughs. In this edition, a magician and a trio dubbed 'the Don Squad' tackle the winter-themed obstacle course.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.35** Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** British Olympic Dreams. **1.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.15 Winter Wipeout. A magician and a trio dubbed 'the Don Squad' tackle the winter-themed obstacle course.
7.15 The Magicians. Ed Byrne, Joe Swash and George Sampson join the illusionists for a final set of magic-themed challenges. With a guest performance by Dutch magician Hans Klok. Last in the series.
8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
9.20 Casualty. Sam refuses to talk to Keith Parr about his neck injury, and instead focuses on treating a patient she believes was sexually assaulted.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Liverpool; National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.10** CBBC. **12.00** Film: The War Lover. (1962) Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen. **1.40** Film: Two Rode Together. (1961) Western, starring James Stewart. **3.30** Birds Britannia: Garden Birds. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Escape to the Country. (R)

6.00 Flog It! From Kilmarnock. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. An invasion alert throws Mainwaring's hopeless would-be heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R)
7.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents coverage of tonight's fixture at the Stade de France in Paris, where the sides play their second match of the campaign.
10.00 Pan Am. Colette flirts with a mysterious stranger.
10.40 Pan Am. Ginny follows Dean to Rome.
11.20 TOTP2: The 60s. Performances by Lulu, the Kinks and Don Partridge. Last in the series.
11.50 FILM: The Assassination of Richard Nixon. (2004) A man worn down with troubles blames Richard Nixon for all his problems and plots an attempt on the president's life. Fact-based thriller, starring Sean Penn.

1.20 Film: The Delta Factor. (1970) Spy thriller, starring Christopher George. **2.55** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.25** This Morning: Saturday. **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.40** Film: Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.15** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **5.30** Regional News ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 All Star Family Fortunes. New series. The game show hosted by Vernon Kay returns. Loose Women's Carol Vorderman and astrologer Russell Grant team up with their relatives to win a cash prize for charity.
7.00 New You've Been Framed! Featuring bridesmaids behaving badly.
7.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.
8.00 Take Me Out. A farmer, a management consultant, a young Conservative and an architecture student try to impress 30 single women.
9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Denzel Washington, Keira Knightley, Tom Hardy and Dionne Warwick.
10.15 ITV News; Weather.
10.30 FILM: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renee Zellweger.

12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Everyone's Talking About — Top Ten. **9.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **9.55** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.25** T4: Playing It Straight. **11.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Channel 4 Presents — 2012: David Clarke — Part Two. (R) **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Lisa Merrell hosts the final dinner party in Warwickshire. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.10 4thought.tv. A homosexual rabbi gives his views on same-sex marriage ceremonies.
7.15 FILM: Crocodile Dundee II. (1988) The Australian adventurer lures the drug dealers who kidnapped his girlfriend to the Outback for a showdown. Comedy adventure sequel, with Paul Hogan.
9.20 The Million Pound Drop Live. Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall. Last in the series.
10.55 FILM: AVP: Alien vs Predator. (2004) Thriller, with Sanaa Lathan.

12.40 Film: Get Rich or Die Tryin.' (2005) Drama, starring Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson. **2.40** Atlantic. (R) **2.45** Stagnate. (R) **2.50** Shapes. (R) **2.55** 90210. (R) **3.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.25** Time Team. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Winter Road Rescue. (R) **11.30** Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **3.30** Film: The Return of the Musketeers. (1989) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Oliver Reed and Michael York. **5.30** Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes.

7.15 5 News Weekend.
7.20 NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery — a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)
8.15 NCIS. McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured and held hostage by the inmates, who are afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. (R)
9.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A woman is shot in her home, and the team suspects the involvement of her husband. (R)
10.10 CSI: NY. A woman's body is found in a Ferrari.
11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler discovers a relative's link to a robbery.

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.05** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Cities. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
3.20 American Idol **5.10** Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995) **7.10** Film: About a Boy (2002) **9.15** Take Me Out — The Gossip **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Film: King Kong (2005)

ITV3
3.00 Film: Columbo: Caution — Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health (1991) **4.55** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.05** Film: Memphis Belle (1990)

ITV4
2.45 Film: Dr No (1962) **5.00** Film: Brewster's Millions (1985) **7.00** Film: Weekend at Bernie's (1989) **9.00** Film: Blazing Saddles (1974) **10.55** Film: Police Academy (1984)

BBC THREE
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.20** Doctor Who **8.10** Top Gear **9.10** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2011 **10.10** Film: I Love You, Man (2008) **11.50** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** The Himalayas **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.25** Film: San Francisco's Year Zero: We Were Here (2011)

E4
1.55 Hollyoaks **4.25** Perfect Couples **5.20** Scrubs **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **7.20** Happy Endings **7.50** How I Met Your Mother **8.20** Rules of Engagement **8.50** The Big Bang Theory **9.20** Film: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
2.50 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995) **4.40** Cocoon: The Return (1988) **6.55** The Three Musketeers (1993) **9.00** Star Trek (2009) The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads to a battle with a vengeful Romulan captain from the future. Sci-fi adventure, starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. **11.25** The Disappeared (2008) Horror, starring Harry Treadaway.

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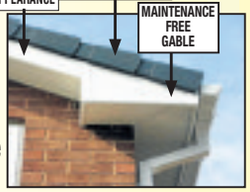
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Choice

DANCING ON ICE

ITV1, 6.30pm

A fortnight ago, the Dancing on Ice celebrities took to the rink for a series of skating "duels," with the winners gaining immunity from the public vote. But this week, the contestants are more likely to be sending each other admiring glances and air kisses than pretending to be challenging each other to a fight on the ice. That's because it's a Valentine's themed-episode, and love is definitely air. However, the remaining couples shouldn't let the romantic atmosphere dull their competitive edge, because judges Louie Spence, Robin Cousins and Katarina Witt will still be scoring their efforts, and the public will still be voting to save their favourites.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** The Royal Bodyguard. (R) **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Antiques Roadshow. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. On the Isle of Wight, Matt Baker hears the story of a horse used in the First World War and Ellie Harrison tries winter surfing.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Jenny nurses a man with cancer, and Fred comes up with a money-making venture involving a pig called Evie, only for his plans to be scuppered when it turns out the sow is pregnant.
9.00 The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the Bafta ceremony from the Royal Opera House in London, as stars of the silver screen gather to celebrate the past 12 months' cinematic achievements.
11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
11.25 Room 101 – Extra Storage. With Ross Noble, Jamelia and Germaine Greer.

12.05 The Sky at Night. **12.25** Weatherview. **12.30** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.10** Holby City. (R) **2.10** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) **3.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: East of Sudan. (1964) Period adventure, starring Anthony Quayle. **1.00** EastEnders. **3.00** Film: Summer Magic. (1963) Disney musical comedy, starring Hayley Mills. **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 The Last Explorers. Neil Oliver visits Japan to explore how trader Thomas Blake Glover helped rebel clans lay the foundations for one of the most world's most powerful economies. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 Queens of British Pop. Concluding the celebration of 12 female singers of the past 50 years, focusing on Annie Lennox, Alison Moyet, Kylie Minogue, Geri Halliwell, Amy Winehouse and Leona Lewis. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. James May tests the updated Fiat Panda.
9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Train Driver. Simon Davies works with Peruvian train drivers in the Andes. Last in the series.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Aston Villa v Manchester City.
11.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. From Norwich, with Chris Addison and Katy Brand. (R)
11.30 Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights.

12.15 Ski Sunday. (R) **1.00** Film: Under the Mud. (2006) Comedy, starring Andrew Schofield. **2.25** BBC News. **3.10** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** Film: Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional News ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)
6.30 Dancing on Ice. The 10 remaining celebrities take part in a love-themed show ahead of Valentine's Day, battling to impress the judges and win public votes.
8.30 Wild at Heart. Du Plessis sets out to prove Danny's innocence, whatever the cost, while Rosie goes on a lone search for a wild cheetah, leading her into a dangerous situation.
9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.
10.00 That Sunday Night Show. With guests including Al Murray and Ross Noble.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Whitechapel. A second mass murder occurs with no obvious signs of a break-in. (R)
11.45 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.35 The Zone. Interactive gaming; ITV News Headlines. **2.10** Ladette to Lady: Australia. The winner is announced. Last in the series. **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.25** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **7.55** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Ellie Simmonds – Part Two. How the Paralympic swimming gold medallist copes with pressure. (R) **8.00** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **8.50** T4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) **9.05** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** UK Indoor Athletics Trials & Championships. Live coverage from the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. **3.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.25** Time Team. **5.25** Deal or No Deal.

6.25 Channel 4 News.
6.55 The Political Slot.
7.00 Home of the Future. New series. A family home is installed with the latest technology and gadgets.
8.00 The Hotel. Manager Mark decides to rejuvenate his restaurant, the Inn.
9.00 The Wedding Proposal. Four people plan to pop the question in memorable ways.
10.00 FILM: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler.

12.25 4thought.tv. **12.30** Film: Amelia. (2009) Premiere. Biopic, starring Hilary Swank. **2.25** Film: Brick. (2005) Mystery drama, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt. **4.15** Mesh: The Wrong Turn. (R) **4.20** Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) **4.25** Mesh: Daddy. (R) **4.30** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Hannah Cockroft – Part Two. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Olivia. (R) **8.20** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.35** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.50** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **10.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.55** Film: Pete's Dragon. (1977) **2.00** Film: Muppets from Space. (1999) Family puppet comedy, with F Murray Abraham. **3.45** Film: That Darn Cat. (1997) Disney comedy remake, starring Christina Ricci. **5.30** Film: X2. (2003) Superhero adventure sequel, with Hugh Jackman.

8.00 True Grit: The True Story.
8.50 5 News Weekend.
9.00 FILM: Ghost Rider. (2007) Fantasy thriller, based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.
11.10 FILM: Best of the Best. (1989) Martial arts drama, starring Eric Roberts.

1.05 Inside Hollywood. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.55** Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) **4.10** How Not to Decorate. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
3.50 Harry Hill's TV Burp **4.15** The Only Way Is Essex **5.50** Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **7.40** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: The Island (2005)

ITV3
3.45 Film: The Secret of My Success (1987) **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
3.05 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.50** Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.30** Live Africa Cup of Nations. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). **9.30** Premiership Rugby Union **10.30** Film: This Is Spinal Tap (1984)

BBC THREE
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** The British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet **8.00** Young Gardener of the Year **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.25** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents

BBC FOUR
7.00 Treasures of Heaven **8.00** Shooting the Hollywood Stars **9.00** We'll Take Manhattan **10.30** Film: Treeless Mountain (2008) **11.55** How the Brits Rocked America: Go West

E4
4.35 Samantha Who? **5.05** Being Erica **6.00** 90210 **6.55** Film: Monster-in-Law (2005) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
3.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **4.50** Planet of the Apes (1968) **7.00** The Bad News Bears (1976) A former baseball player coaches a bunch of hopeless kids and turns them into winners, aided by an ex-girlfriend's talented daughter. Comedy, with Walter Matthau. **9.00** What Lies Beneath (2000) A doctor's wife is troubled by visions of a ghostly girl who appears to be asking her for help. Supernatural thriller, starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Harrison Ford and Diana Scarwid. **11.30** Hot Rod (2007)

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Monday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Britain's Empty Homes. (R) **11.30** Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** Poor America – Panorama. **9.00** The Diamond Queen. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** A Question of Sport. **11.05** Late Kick Off. **11.35** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **12.20** Weatherview. **12.25** Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **1.25** Natural World: Tiger Dynasty. (R) **2.25** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) **3.25** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.45** Film: Blackbeard's Ghost. (1967) Disney comedy fantasy, starring Peter Ustinov. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **7.00** Operation Hospital Food with James Martin. **8.00** University Challenge. **8.30** An Island Parish. **9.00** Protecting Our Children. **10.00** Mock the Week – Again. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Pan Am. (R) **12.00** Pan Am. (R) **12.40** BBC News. **3.15** The Super League Show. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Whitechapel. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** That Sunday Night Show. (R) **11.05** Law & Order: UK. (R) **12.05** River Monsters. (R) **12.35** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** Champions League Weekly. **3.05** ITV Nightscreen. **4.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.00** Sali Mali. (R) **6.05** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Will Bayley – Part Two. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **9.55** Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Stephen Miller – Part Two. (R) **12.10** Country House Rescue. (R) **1.10** Film: The Time Machine. (1960) Sci-fi adventure, starring Rod Taylor. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal: 80s Love Mix. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Olympic Tickets for Sale: A Dispatches Special. **9.00** Coppers. **10.00** America's Serial Killer: True Stories. **11.25** Random Acts. **11.30** Shameless. (R) **12.30** Music on 4: The 54th Grammy Awards. **2.00** Olympic Tickets for Sale: A Dispatches Special. (R) **2.55** 90210. (R) **3.35** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.15** Home of the Future. (R) **5.10** Time Team. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.05** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** Build a New Life in the Country. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: NY. (R) **3.15** Film: Crimes of Fashion: Hostile Makeover. (2009) **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** World's Toughest Trucker; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Police Interceptors; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Royal Marines: Mission Afghanistan. **10.00** Film: The Longest Yard. (2005) Comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler. **12.20** Soho Blues. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Britain's Empty Homes. (R) **11.30** Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Holby City. **9.00** Prisoners' Wives. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather.; National Lottery Update. **10.35** Death Unexplained. **11.20** Neighbourhood Watched. (R) **12.05** Film: Titanic Town. (1998) Fact-based drama, starring Julie Walters. **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: The Hunt for the Higgs: A Horizon Special. (R) **2.45** Inside Men. (R) **3.45** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.35** Film: That Darn Cat! (1965) Disney comedy, starring Hayley Mills. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **7.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **8.00** Alex Polizzi: The Fixer. **9.00** How to Grow a Planet. **10.00** Have I Got Old News for You. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Rubicon. **12.05** Rubicon. **12.50** BBC News. **3.05** Close. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** River Monsters. **8.00** The Exit List. **9.00** The Biggest Loser. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Benidorm. (R) **11.35** The Cube. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.05** Crossing Jordan. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **9.55** Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R) **12.10** Country House Rescue. (R) **1.10** Film: Doctor in Clover. (1966) Medical comedy, starring Leslie Phillips. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal: 80s Love Mix. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. **9.00** Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. **10.00** Shameless. **11.05** Desperate Housewives. **12.05** Random Acts. **12.10** Poker. **1.10** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. **1.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.00** Volleyball. **2.55** Late Night Poker. (R) **3.55** Best of British. (R) **4.50** That Paralympic Show. (R) **5.15** Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.05** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** Build a New Life in the Country. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: NY. (R) **3.10** The Family Recipe. (R) **3.15** Film: Earthstorm. (2006) A demolitions expert is sent to stop the moon from breaking apart and causing devastation for all life on Earth. Sci-fi adventure, starring Stephen Baldwin and Dirk Benedict. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Police Interceptors. A drunk driver crushes one of the team's favourite cars; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Saving Private Ryan: The True Story; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Body of Proof. **9.55** CSI: NY. (R) **10.55** CSI: Miami. (R) **11.50** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **12.45** Forensic Files. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Britain's Empty Homes. (R) **11.30** Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** Rip Off Britain; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Britain's Favourite Supermarket Foods. **9.00** MasterChef. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. **10.45** Kevin Bridges What's the Story? **11.15** Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. **11.55** Film: Frozen River. (2008) **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) **2.00** The Night Watch. (R) **3.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.15** Rip Off Britain. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** Film: Russkies. (1987) **1.00** See Hear. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **7.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **8.00** Bees, Butterflies and Blooms. **9.00** Versailles. **9.50** Coast. **10.00** Roger & Val Have Just Got In. **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Film: Out of the Ashes. (2010) **12.45** BBC News. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Live UEFA Champions League. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. **11.35** Kidnap and Ransom. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** Film: The Alamo. (1960) **5.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **9.55** Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** Country House Rescue. (R) **1.05** Film: Ladies in Lavender. (2004) **3.05** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Danielle Brown – Part Two. (R) **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal: 80s Love Mix. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Daddy Daycare. **9.00** One Born Every Minute. **10.00** 10 O'Clock Live. **10.55** Random Acts. **11.05** The Inbetweeners. (R) **11.35** The Inbetweeners. (R) **12.05** Music on 4: Mark Ronson: The Beat. **12.40** Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. **12.55** Music on 4: Album Chart Show Introduces: Azari & III. **1.05** Music on 4: Album Chart Show Spotlight. **1.20** Music on 4: 4Play: Lanterns on the Lake. **1.35** Music on 4: Professor Green Unseen: After Hours. (R) **2.00** Music on 4: Matt Cardle: The Album Chart Show Special. (R) **2.25** Music on 4: Live from Abbey Road. (R) **3.10** 90210. (R) **3.50** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.30** Time Team. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.05** 5 News. **12.15** Build a New Life in the Country. **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: NY. **3.15** Film: The Reading Room. (2005) **5.00** 5 News. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Cowboy Builders; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Benidorm ER; 5 News. **9.00** NCIS. **10.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. **10.55** Law & Order: SVU. **11.50** Poker: The Big Game. **12.50** Inside Hollywood. **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. **4.25** Wildlife SOS. **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge.

Thursday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Britain's Empty Homes. (R) **11.30** Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** The Great British Countryside. **9.00** Inside Men. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Question Time. **11.35** Film: Battle in Seattle. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Charlize Theron. **1.10** Skiing Weatherview. **1.15** Sign Zone: Poor America – Panorama. (R) **1.45** Countryfile. (R) **2.40** Britain's Killer Roads. (R) **3.25** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **11.50** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **12.10** Film: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. (1997) Fairy-tale musical romance, starring Brandy. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **7.00** Top Gear. (R) **8.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. **9.00** A Dad Is Born – A Wonderland Film. **10.00** James May's Things You Need to Know. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Toughest Place to Be a Train Driver. (R) **12.20** An Island Parish. (R) **12.50** BBC News. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **8.00** Live UEFA Europa League Football. FC Porto v Manchester City (Kick-off 8.05pm). **10.15** ITV News; Weather. **10.45** Regional News; Weather. **10.50** The Jonathan Ross Show. (R) **11.50** Take Me Out. (R) **1.00** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **4.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **9.55** Relocation, Relocation. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R) **12.15** Country House Rescue. (R) **1.20** Film: Courage of Lassie. (1946) Family drama, starring Elizabeth Taylor. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal: 80s Love Mix. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Location, Location, Location. Catching up with first-time buyers in the Cotswolds and London. **9.00** The Restoration Man. **10.00** Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. (R) **11.05** The Wedding Proposal. (R) **12.10** Random Acts. **12.15** Gok's Teens: The Naked Truth. (R) **1.10** Embarrassing Bodies. (R) **2.05** Film: Knights of the South Bronx. (2005) Fact-based drama, starring Ted Danson. **3.35** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.20** Time Team. (R) **5.15** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: David Smith – Part Two. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.05** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** Build a New Life in the Country. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: NY. (R) **3.15** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **3.25** Film: Hush. (2005) Thriller, starring Tori Spelling. **5.15** Live UEFA Europa League Football. **8.05** Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale. **11.30** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.55** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Friday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Britain's Empty Homes. (R) **11.30** Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** Room 101. **9.00** Hustle. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The Graham Norton Show. **11.20** The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. **11.30** Film: Severance. (2006) Comedy horror, starring Danny Dyer. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Great Barrier Reef. (R) **3.05** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.25** CBeebies. **11.30** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **11.50** The Pink Panther Show. (R) **12.10** Film: When Zachary Beaver Came to Town. (2003) Family drama, starring Sasha Neulinger. **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **7.00** Live Cycling. The Track Cycling World Cup Classics event from London. **8.00** Mastermind. **8.30** Mastermind. **9.00** Baka: A Cry from the Rainforest. **10.30** Newsnight. **11.20** The Review Show. **12.00** Weather. **12.05** Baka: People of the Rainforest. (R) **1.50** Film: The Leather Boys. (1964) Drama, with Rita Tushingham. **3.35** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Safari Vet School. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Law & Order: UK. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg. **12.45** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.45** Film: DOA: Dead or Alive. (2006) Action adventure, starring Jaime Pressly. **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freshly Squeezed. **7.35** According to Jim. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **9.55** Relocation, Relocation. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** River Cottage Bites. (R) **12.10** Country House Rescue. (R) **1.15** Film: Cry Havoc. (1943) Second World War drama, starring Margaret Sullavan. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal: 80s Love Mix. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.30** 4thought.tv. **7.35** Come Dine with Me. **8.30** New Girl. **9.00** The Bank Job. **10.00** The Mad Bad Ad Show. **10.50** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts. (R) **11.55** 10 O'Clock Live. (R) **12.50** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Mandip Sehmi – Part Two. (R) **12.55** Film: Hustle & Flow. (2005) Hip-hop drama, with Terrence Howard. **2.55** Random Acts. **3.00** My Name Is Earl. (R) **3.25** Hung. (R) **4.25** Mesh. (R) **4.35** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.05** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** Build a New Life in the Country. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: Miami. (R) **3.15** Film: Out of the Woods. (2005) Drama, starring Jason London. **5.00** Neighbours. (R) **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** Home and Away. (R) **6.55** Inside Hollywood. (R) **7.00** Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** World's Toughest Trucker; 5 News at 9. **9.00** The Mentalist. **9.55** NCIS. (R) **10.55** NCIS. (R) **11.50** Inside Hollywood. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Motorsport Mundial. **4.25** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

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the pulse

Brain Gym

No.155

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

20	10	20	4	■	■	20	■	■	16	7	3	22
■	21	■	■	12	26	16	7	21	■	13	■	8
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 U	2 I	3 Z	4 S	5 V	6 W	7 H	8 X	9 J	10 R	11 P	12 F	13 O
14 A	15 N	16 L	17 D	18 T	19 C	20 M	21 E	22 Y	23 K	24 G	25 Q	26 B

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SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!

App Store SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

OUT NOW!

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Little room in the Greek style (5)
4. Male, but subject to change (7)
8. Suitable food for a stag-party? (7)
9. What the victims of disaster have come to (5)
10. Regretted being uncivil by the sound of it (4)
11. He's willing (8)
13. See 23 Across
14. To give ground for what is planted, we hear (4)
16. They are heated by the current weather (8)
17. The beginnings of every poem involving chivalry will be! (4)
20. What happened to part of the meat entree (5)
21. Mete out punishment for Charles X (7)
22. Is stay due to be rearranged at this particular time? (7)
23 & 13 Ac. A mount to gamble on - the jockey's on this presumably (9)

Down

1. Notice I'd even matters out! (13)
2. A bit strained in some grammatical application? (5)
3. Drop all the players! (4)
4. Acted as a custodian, but objected (6)
5. How people unite to capture the girl (8)
6. Fifty in wild tribes show angry resistance (7)
7. A distinctive quality of champagne (13)
12. Intended for public show, but covered up (8)
13. Have regular inspirations (7)
15. Describing the situation of those in a jam? (6)
18. The name that disheartens the petty-officer! (5)
19. Frustrate a quick movement (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Fast (5)
4. Feign (7)
8. Anguish (7)
9. Accumulate (5)
10. Finished (4)
11. Admixture (8)
13. Cut into small pieces (4)
14. Daze (4)
16. Plot (8)
17. Story (4)
20. Angry (5)
21. Relevant (7)
22. Ingredient (7)
23. Extract by force (5)

Down

1. Looking back (13)
2. Professional boxer's prize (5)
3. Judge (4)
4. Powerful (6)
5. Clear out of (8)
6. High spirits (7)
7. Separation (13)
12. To finish (8)
13. Hollow (7)
15. Shining (6)
18. Proverb (5)
19. Increase (4)

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	■		■		■		■		■		■	
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	■	13				■	14				■	
	■		■		■	15	■		■	■	■	
16								■	17	18		
	■		■		■		■	19	■		■	
20					■	21						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
22							■	23				

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Starboard; 8 Wave; 9 Knowledge; 10 Sortie; 11 Adder; 14 Raise; 15 Dene; 16 Stilt; 18 Cell; 20 April; 21 Sedan; 24 Flaunt; 25 Tearfully; 26 Isle; 27 Plasterer. Down: 1 Awe-struck; 2 Overfills; 4 Tone; 5 Rowed; 6 Obeyed; 7 Rage; 9 Kites; 11 Alien; 12 Retrousse; 13 Realities; 17 Tally; 19 Learns; 22 Abuse; 23 Deal; 24 Flee. QUICK - Across: 3 Accompany; 8 Earn; 9 Sovereign; 10 Accent; 11 Raise; 14 Halve; 15 Even; 16 Reaps; 18 None; 20 Torso; 21 Tardy; 24 Carbon; 25 Continual; 26 Edge; 27 Retrieves. Down: 1 Megaphone; 2 Truculent; 4 Coot; 5 Opera; 6 Please; 7 Nigh; 9 Sneer; 11 Ready; 12 Everybody; 13 Encounter; 17 Steal; 19 Easter; 22 Dense; 23 Zone; 24 Care.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

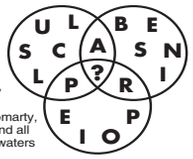
	5	2			3		1	
	3	4		6				5
6							4	
			8	1		5		4
	1	5	3		6			
8		6		5	4			7
			1					6
3				2		9	7	
	7					4	8	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	9	1	5	2	8	4	7	3
2	3	7	1	9	4	8	5	6
4	8	5	3	7	6	2	1	9
9	7	2	4	1	3	6	8	5
5	4	6	9	8	7	1	3	2
3	1	8	2	6	5	9	4	7
7	2	3	8	4	9	5	6	1
1	5	4	6	3	2	7	9	8
8	6	9	7	5	1	3	2	4

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is R. Cromarty, Rockall, Portland all regions of the waters

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QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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NORTON
8 FAIRWAYS AVENUE £875 pcm

Modern link detached house at a popular address ■ rear lounge, dining room, gallery style kitchen ■ four bedrooms, two with built in wardrobes, family bathroom ■ tarmac driveway to front, garage, alarmed.

WORDSLEY
11 GREENBANK GARDENS £795 pcm

Modern detached house ■ lounge, study, breakfast kitchen, conservatory ■ three bedrooms; master with en-suite, bathroom ■ well maintained rear garden, block paved driveway, alarmed, c/h, d/g

OLDSWINFORD,
3 PEARTREE DRIVE £750 pcm

Detached bungalow ■ two reception rooms, conservatory, breakfast kitchen, ground floor wc, laundry ■ three bedrooms, bathroom ■ garage, rear garden, c/h, d/g

PEDMORE
51 HAM LANE £750 pcm

Traditional detached house ■ lounge, rear dining room with patio doors leading to rear garden, modern fitted kitchen ■ three bedrooms, bathroom ■ c/h, d/g, rear garden, substantial off road parking.

HAGLEY
60 MEADOWCROFT £595 pcm

Modern semi detached house ■ lounge, breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, bathroom with shower ■ rear garden with patio area, driveway, c/h, d/g.

GORNAL
3 REDSTONE WAY £525 pcm

Modern mid town house ■ lounge, breakfast kitchen, gfwc ■ two bedrooms ■ bathroom with shower ■ rear garden with patio area ■ garage, alarmed, c/h, d/g.

MERRY HILL
19 MADISON AVENUE £525 pcm

Ground floor apartment on the popular development fronting Merry Hill ■ spacious lounge with modern kitchen recess ■ two bedrooms, master en-suite shower, bathroom ■ one designated parking space, d/g, c/h

WORDSLEY
21 SMALMAN CLOSE £525 pcm

Stylish second floor apartment ■ open plan lounge/kitchen with integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, master with en-suite, bathroom ■ one allocated parking space, c/h, d/g

DUDLEY
25 HOPTON GARDENS £515 pcm

Modern mid town house in a cul-de-sac position ■ lounge, breakfast kitchen ■ two bedrooms, master built in wardrobe, bathroom ■ rear garden, driveway, c/h, d/g.

MERRY HILL
202 TIMES SQUARE £485 pcm

Second Floor apartment ■ lounge area with patio door to balcony, kitchen recess, utility area ■ one bedroom with ensuite shower, plus main bathroom ■ one secure designated parking space, d/g, electric heating.

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The three-bedroomed house in Lavender Lane, Norton, Stourbridge, which is described as being very versatile

Detached house is of generous size

A MUCH-IMPROVED and enlarged three bedroom detached family home in Lavender Lane, Norton, Stourbridge, is for sale with a guide price of £199,950.

The ground floor accommodation is said to be very versatile and includes a superb refitted and enlarged kitchen, and there is also a home study/hobbies room.

The generous sitting room has a combined dining area with the dining space 18ft 7in by 7ft 10in and the sitting area 14ft 6in by 12ft 10in with a feature brick built fireplace .

A door from the dining area opens to a central hall with a door to the guest cloakroom with low level wc and wall mounted wash hand basin.

The kitchen – 15ft 8in by 10ft 10in - has a range of contemporary styled cupboard fronted units, rolled edge work surface with one-and-a-half bowl sink and drainer unit, wall mounted units, five burner AEG gas hob with matching electric double oven and stainless steel cooker hood and peninsular breakfast bar.

The study/home office/hobbies room is 13ft 1in by 8ft 2in. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with modern white suite including a 'shower bath' with shower over, curved shower screen, low level wc and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property is set back behind a block paved driveway, while the generous rear gardens have a large lawn area and borders with maturing plants and shrubs.

For further details, or to arrange a viewing, call estate agent Taylors on 01384 395555.

Three en-suites in £430,000 house

A DETACHED family home in Pattingham with five bedrooms is on the market priced at £430,000.

The accommodation at Cinder Cottage, in Hall End Lane, briefly comprises lounge, kitchen, utility room, dressing area, five bedrooms, three en-suites, family bathroom as well as an integral garage and also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating where specified.

The lounge is 18ft 3in by 9ft 7in and has a feature fireplace with marble effect back and hearth and inset gas fire, with French doors to the kitchen which is 16ft 1in by 11ft 6in with French doors to the rear and fitted with a range of wall and base units with work tops, one and a half bowl sink, hob with extractor over and built-in oven, integrated dishwasher and cfridge/freezer.

Dressing

There is a utility room with base units with sink unit and a cloakroom with low level wc and pedestal wash hand basin.

Bedroom three has a dressing area and en suite with corner shower cubicle, bedroom four a Jack & Jill style en-suite with shower cubicle and low level wc, with bedroom five and a family bathroom with panel bath, low level wc and fitted cupboards with double vanity unit.

Bedroom one is 21ft by 10ft 4in, with an en-suite bathroom comprising corner shower cubicle, corner bath and low-level WC.

Outside is a block paved driveway to the garage with up and over door, while the rear garden has a paved patio with steps leading to the lawned area.

Contact Dixons Perton branch on 01902 744252.

This large detached in Pattingham is on the market for offers based on £430,000. Contact Dixons on 01902 744252

Select Property Management Ltd

Tel: 01384 277701 Fax: 01384 277720

KINGSWINFORD NEW

BACK ROAD
FOR SALE £179,995
Modern town house. Accommodation includes: Entrance Hall, WC, Dining Room, Well Appointed Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Three Bedrooms including Master with Built in Wardrobes and En suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom. Benefits include, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Single Garage. Viewing via this office on 01384 277701

KINGSWINFORD NEW

GREENFIELDS ROAD
£585 pcm
Well Proportioned Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, FURNISHED TO A HIGH STANDARD, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL NEW

FOXDALE DRIVE
£460 pcm
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front Gardens, Allocated Parking

WOODSETTON NEW

SHENLEY AVENUE
£620 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

TIVIDALE NEW

MONINS AVENUE
£400 pcm
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. Unfurnished

WALL HEATH NEW

BLAZE PARK
£750 pcm
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Third Reception Room, Utility, Thee Bedrooms, En suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

GORNAL NEW

NEW STREET
£535 pcm
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage

WORDSLEY NEW

MARINE CRESCENT
£550 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD NEW

RAGEES ROAD
£325 pcm
Purpose Built Studio Style Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom Area, Shower Room, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking

GORNAL NEW

PRIORS MILL
£530 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Available Immediately

WORDSLEY NEW

CROWNOAKES DRIVE
£495 pcm
Purpose Built Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Area, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.

KINVER NEW

SPRING CLOSE
£495 pcm
Apartment, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

SEDGLEY NEW

DINGLE VIEW
£675 pcm
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front/Side/Rear Gdns, Off Road Parking

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HEYDON ROAD
£595 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

COLLEY GATE

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£395 pcm
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£350 pcm
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EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm
Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

BILSTON

GREAT BRIDGE ROAD
£370 pcm
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing.

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE
£460 pcm
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Partial Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

TIPTON

OXFORD WAY
£585 pcm
Semi-detached. Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens.

LAKESIDE

LAKESIDE COURT
£495 pcm
First Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. Unfurnished.

DUDLEY

DIBDALE STREET
£575 pcm
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

TIPTON

ANCHOR DRIVE
£495 pcm
Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

BROCKMOOR

HIGH STREET
£495 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered, Rear Garden

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Lost & Found

LOST
From Wallbrook, Coseley since January 26, black and white tom cat, identifiable by black tail with 3ins of white at tip.
Please contact 07773 452215.

LOST—Cameo Brooch. Monday, Jan 30 lunchtime in Westacre Cres, Finchfield, towards Finchfield Hill. Reward. 01902 765505.

Religious Notices

Christadelphian

BIBLE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PROBLEMS The problem of suffering. February 12 at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST WV1681 Kingswinford DY6 9BR for free information pack or ring 01384 278585 for recorded message.

personal

waldrons solicitors Freephone 0500 811 899
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ADULT CINEMA AND SEX SHOP. Toys, lingerie, the latest DVDs. The Foxy Lady, Oxford Street, Bilston, 01902 490898.

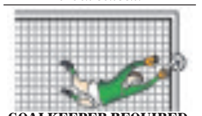
BURIAL PLOT for sale, Penn Cemetery, Penn Road, Wolverhampton. For details contact 07976 880080.

CRIMSON TIDE CHEERLEADERS
Are recruiting new members for the 2012 season, aged 5 years upwards.
Classes are held every Sunday, at the Royal School, Wolverhampton.
For class times and more information Call
07909 697785.

NEW CHRISTIAN SLIMMING CLUB. Find out how God views your body, eat healthy, lose weight, enjoy fellowship. 07925 172412.

DECENT, UNATTACHED
Quiet natured slim male, 53, non smoker, seeks a similar female, 40-50 to be my Valentine and hopefully lead to a long term relationship.
Box Number P17594
Express and Star
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES.

DID YOU WITNESS A CAR ACCIDENT
On October 31, 2011, at approximately 3.50pm, involving a silver Astra and a black Golf at the traffic lights turning into Marston Road, off Penn Road, Wolverhampton by KFC.
Please call
01902 892332.



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Old Wulfrunians Under 11's
(Current year 6)
Opportunity for a Goalkeeper to join an ambitious, motivated but friendly football team, playing in Division 1 of the Stourbridge League.
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Seeks female Friends 38 - 51, between Penn and Stourbridge areas for nights out, wine bars, clubs etc, to go out by taxis every couple of weeks.
Box Number P17588 ,
Express and Star,
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WEDNESFIELD U12 GIRLS
currently looking for new players to strengthen their successful league and cup winners squad. Must be current year 6 and 7.
Please contact Craig Ranford on 07980 482544.
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Players aged 6 - 9 to start new teams.
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All coaches FA. NVQ. CRB qualified.

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BIG TWO seater sette and one chair, terracotta and gold, excellent condition, expensive when new, £285. 01543 579463.

DINING TABLE and six chairs, dresser, corner unit, all mahogany, £350 ono.
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DINING TABLE Pedastal, circular, oak, extends, 6 chairs, matching display unit if required, £175. 01902 498036.

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THREE SEATER Settee, large poufe, DFS, Luxe, 5 months old, expresso/sand, cost £1,200, sell £550. 01922 418643/07816 058526.

WHITE LEATHER 3 piece suite, excellent condition, 18 months old, £350. 01902 791147.

carpenters

ALL ASPECTS of Carpentry work, kitchens, doors and frames, skirting, and laminate, external work, conservatories, roofing, decking and fencing etc. Call for free quote. Paul 07725 534482.

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JAKES HOUSE CLEARENCES Fast friendly family business.Est 30yrs. Dudley 01384 918141, 07930 949337.

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or 07971783206

ABSOLUTELY THE BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. 01384 482155/ 07802 475693.

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Top prices paid for the right item.
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ANY GAUGE OR AGE
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Any make, also live steam.
Guaranteed top cash prices paid!!
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pc's, laptops & accessories

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JASON HYDE PLUMBING & HEATING
Combi boilers from £1,400,
5 Year Warranty with 7 rads from £2,200
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ALL TYPES OF FENCING SUPPLIED AND FITTED
We will beat any written quote
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FREE QUOTES
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GARDENS TIDIED From £5 per garden. 25 years experience, 01902 713 106 / 07813 184 086.

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RUPERT BUTTON Decor
Free Quotes. Friendly reliable service for all aspects of decorating.
Professional service guaranteed.
Local areas covered. Call Rupert on:
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Reasonable price.
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BMW 318SE TOURER, auto, petrol, 2001, 56k, silver, tax, MoT, leather, fsh, immaculate, £3,175 ono. 07976 533456.

BMW 320 Ci SE, M Sport body package, 2002, silver, 3 months tax and MoT, 103,000 miles, £2,195. 07967 794168.

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RENAULT CLIO 1.6 2000 reg, silver, 12 months MoT, tax, 64K, electrics, alloys, alarm, bargain £695. 07980 394239.

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Dudley

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LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384171**

JACKIE enjoys holidays, meals in or out, cosy nights in with good company, looking for nice times and romantic weekends away with reliable male. Any status. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383915**

HI I'm Christine, 35, attractive with blue eyes, OHAC, lonely and seeking a genuine male to put some much needed tlc back into my life, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383913**

SARAH curvaceous brunette, 35, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for manly male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383909**

LUCINDA caring 31yr old single mum, sick of school runs and runny noses, looking for some adult fun and good times with available easygoing male up to 45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383067**

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male fun friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373013**

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376569**

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTM understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375141**

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370023**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363277**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378483**

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379535**

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non jealous, respectful male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383065**

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTM nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370111**

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382087**

FAYE young 43yr fun, trendy, fit, loves fast cars, wine, sports, shopping, seeking younger male to make me feel as young as the man I am feeling! **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383069**

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368119**

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091**

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368889**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376565**

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382089**

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381341**

RACHAEL 49yrs young slim, caring, sincere and fun loving, WLTM similar male with GSOH for mutual companionship, perhaps more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343**

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377511**

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370017**

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375711**

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428**

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375139**

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378481**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432**

GORGEOUS 26yr old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/status welcome. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 358141**

TRACY attractive young blonde with great figure, likes nights in/out, looking for stimulating male for interesting meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380389**

40'S LA lady, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 358135**

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377513**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528**

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325**

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073**

SARAH 52, fun loving, affectionate, outgoing, likes pubs, meals out, walks, holidays, seeks kind, romantic, loving man. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382359**

ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388550**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359238**

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 341491**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 313115**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375825**

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373**

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380851**

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591**

LOUISA looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380469**

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387204**

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295**

SINGLE MEN

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TOM 61, medium build, reasonable looks, with ties, seeks attractive, younger lady, 25-48 for exciting daytime fun. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384771**

SINCERE honest male, young 60's, intelligent, caring, slim, likes music, outdoors, art, theatre, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 50 plus with style and wit. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384849**

JOHN 57, lonely, seeking female to share life with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377831**

47YR old musician, thoughtful, tall, seeks quiet, easygoing lady, 40-47 for mellow relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384401**

IAN 43, single dad, likes rugby, motorsports, reading, history, cooking, walks, cinema, music, seeks kind, honest, sincere lady, 25-48. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371955**

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158**

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 312443**

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372407**

CARING affectionate 70's male enjoys home life, socialising, holidays, seeks special lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384653**

TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373351**

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383425**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368871**

JEFF 63, tall, fresh looking, fit, N/S, nice personality, seeks female. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384583**

GENUINE professional male, 50, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382849**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 239148**

WELL built mixed race guy, seeking fun and laughter with attached fun with open-minded female. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376513**

MALE 30, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389436**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382997**

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921**

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tipton. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649**

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363253**

EARLY 50's male, seeks tactile female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 351923**

MALE 45, wants pillion passenger for Triumph Tiger, rides out, base meetings and tours, are you up for it? **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384321**

DANIEL 49, tall, attractive, GSOH, seeks lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382559**

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371823**

MALE 36, likes pubs, clubs, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Carol please leave your mobile number again. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 263938**

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, seeks lady with GSOH for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384331**

HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 219790**

40YR old male, likes pubs, bars, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384325**

PAUL hurt in past, seeking honest, trustworthy female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384295**

60'S MA male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307**

DAVE 52, seeks female, 30-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371541**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTM West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374821**

BRIAN Walsall male, 60, single, N/S, smart, casual, seeks West Midlands lady for mutual pleasure, regular meetings. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374487**

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369663**

ATTRACTIVE solvent, honest gent, 57, 5ft 5ins, slim, easygoing, GSOH, OHAC, retired, seeks attractive female for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384133**

63YR old male, widower, retired, looking for female of any age/status for fun relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389132**

BRIAN 73, widower, 5ft 8ins, N/S, likes walks, cycling, holidays, travel, gardening, meals out, seeks genuine female, 35-70 for LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384083**

GAY SINGLES

BI male, young 50, divorced, own home/business, generous, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384775**

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 355984**

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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Memories are made of this – Volkswagen's classic

FOR SOME, only Mini has come the closest to harnessing the power of 'old' to sell new cars.

By Iain Dooley

Even then some might say that its line-up is more of a caricature than homage to the original small car. Certainly, the modern iteration is no longer small.

Volkswagen, on the other hand, has chosen to look forward in its pursuit of promoting its third generation new Beetle.

More a family car than simple pastiche of the original, it's bigger and more powerful too.

But when a recent opportunity to drive Volkswagen UK's very own classic Beetle came up, it was hard to say no.

It was certainly worth the wait. Originally purchased for the company's press fleet, it's stayed in the family ever since.

A sympathetic restoration programme conducted in recent years has seen the car return to its original silver and chrome glory.

And with a little over 22,000 miles on the clock, the car's interior looks like it could have come straight from the factory.

A no frills 1.2-litre version, this original Beetle is as simple and straightforward as they come, whether it's the engine's modest 34 horsepower or the thin sliver of a key that only works when slotted in the door lock or ignition one particular way.

Still, part of the Beetle's charm is the way it drives. There really is nothing else like it on the road today.

At the car's inception, its rear engine, rear-wheel drive layout was believed to offer the best compromise in terms of packaging, handling and space.

This side of a Porsche you won't find a car with a 'boot' in its nose, while the Beetle's flat-four engine is only trumped by, again, Porsche's range of performance motors.

Turn the key and your ears are met with the Beetle's trademark 'chug-chug-chug' as the engine stumbles into life.

Engage first with the spindly gear lever and you're soon in motion with surprising ease.

Progress isn't rapid but, even when in the company of more modern machines, it's pretty easy to maintain a sensible pace.

Stick to the posted limits and you'll be fine; something that's easy to do thanks to the accurate gearshift and responsive throttle.

Braking is less scary than you might think in a car of this age. Attacking the high-mounted pedal requires a little planning as it does require a hefty push, but the car stops without fuss.

Surprise

What is a surprise is the Beetle's supple ride on urban roads.

More supple and controlled than some modern cars, it's only when you leave the city limits and wind on a bit of speed do you experience a slight lack of straight-line stability. That's the only obvious trade-off for having the engine in the boot - just ask owners of old 911s.

That's never going to be enough to write off the overall experience, though. This particular Beetle is a fine example of what was good about the long-running automotive icon.

More refined than that other car from the swinging Sixties but lacking nothing in terms of character, to many fans this car is fitted with the 'correct' engine and the modest output is no barrier to enjoyment.

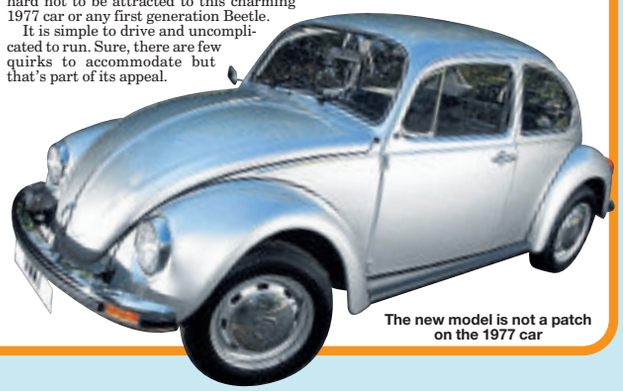
Being realistic for a moment, a brand spanking new 2012 model year Beetle is no match for this old-timer as a day-to-day proposition.

But as a low maintenance classic, it's hard not to be attracted to this charming 1977 car or any first generation Beetle.

It is simple to drive and uncomplicated to run. Sure, there are few quirks to accommodate but that's part of its appeal.

Offering such a rich and tactile experience, it's hard not to have fun.

Let's hope the new car is fit to follow in its footsteps.



The new model is not a patch on the 1977 car

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Stuart Truman, service advisor at Clarks of Kidderminster

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Trust plays a big role in choosing good garages

BOTH money and time may be tight for many motorists but when it comes to choosing a garage to maintain their car, trust beats both price and convenience as the most important factor, according to a new study from Kwik Fit.

Its research shows that almost half of motorists (45 per cent) say their most important reason for returning to the same garage they've used previously is because they trust it will do a good job. This is almost twice as many as those who are most influenced by price (24 per cent), while only one in five base their decision on convenience.

The research shows the extent to which motorists remain loyal to the garage they trust – more than three-quarters (78 per cent) will stay with one garage where possible. One in three are so faithful they wouldn't switch at any price.

It takes up to three successful visits to gain the trust of most drivers (74 per cent). A sceptical three per cent of motorists say it takes seven visits or more to a garage to have fully earned their confidence. One in 10 motorists say they don't generally trust garages.

Just one in 12 (eight per cent) drivers will try a new garage for a service or MoT, but when it comes to tyres, motorists are more willing to put loyalties to one side – a quarter say they would be prepared to go elsewhere.

Roger Griggs, communications director at Kwik Fit, says: "It's encouraging to see that even in times of financial hardship, motorists are not abandoning their loyalty to a decent garage.

"And it's a credit to the industry that the majority of drivers who keep going to the same place do so because they have faith in its ability to get the job done properly."

Three-quarters of drivers will stay with a garage if possible

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A testing start on way for Heathens

TEAM BOSS Will Pottinger says his Dudley Heathens riders are in for a tough test at the start of the season.

Club officials are awaiting news on the National League fixtures but they have already pencilled in the opener against Stoke at Monmore on April 3 in the Staffordshire Cup and Mildenhall in the Shield on April 17.

The individual Golden Hammer meeting has been set for Tuesday, July 10.

Pottinger is tipping the Potters and Fen Tigers to be serious challengers for the National League crown once again after both reached the play-offs in 2011.

He said: "It's going to be a tough start for the boys – we are up against two of the strongest teams in the league in my view.

"It's nice for us to be able to defend our National Shield after we beat Buxton last season but it's going to be a really tough test against Mildenhall.

"Fortunately the way the fixtures have fallen we will have Adam Roynon available for the away leg, which is good, with no clash with his Workington fixtures.

"The league is going to be very competitive once again and it's our intention to reach the play-offs. A couple of wins against Stoke and Mildenhall would be excellent, it would get our season off to a good start."

The Heathens riders will have a team bonding day on Friday, March 9 with a team photograph being taken in Cradley Heath followed by go-karting in Halesowen.

"We're also going along to the Village Hotel in Dudley," Pottinger said.

DK head for the great outdoors

DUDLEY Kingswinford player-coach Jon Higgins was getting his players back out onto the training field this week with the clock ticking towards Saturday's tough trip to Hereford.

The DK squad have not seen a ball since their 44-23 win at Mansfield two weeks ago, after last weekend's game was called off.

Bad weather has forced them indoors but Higgins hopes to take them outside for the first time since the cold snap set in last week.

DK are keen to play on Saturday as they chase top spot in National League Three Midlands.

Swans benefit from Albion giveaway

Albion 1 Swansea 2

THE latest in a lengthening collection of Hawthorns giveaways took the misery level to a new low for fans.

Heavy snow arriving just before Saturday's game made the journey away from The Hawthorns just as unenjoyable as watching the match.

For the ninth time in 14 Hawthorns outings – the eighth in 12 in the Premier League – Baggies supporters filed away with their team beaten, ***writes Steve Madeley.***

And this time there were fewer crumbs of comfort than ever. The common traits from previous disappointments were present again. They created one or two decent chances, might easily have had a penalty, had an effort cleared off the line and saw the misfiring Peter Odemwingie miss the mother of all sitters as they chased an equaliser.

And yet they and their fans left a snowy stadium knowing that, for the first time in a while, their overall performance did not merit anything more than it got.

And after a crazy six-minute spell in the second half that saw them seize control and then surrender it, they never possessed the guile to reassert authority.

Odemwingie should have rescued a draw but there was little question the increasingly impressive Swans were excellent value for just their second away-day success of the season.

The game might have taken a different route had referee Jonathan Moss spotted a clear handball by former Baggies trainee Ashley Williams to stop Gareth McAuley's goalbound header on 18 minutes. But not until a brief rally late in the first half did Albion gather any steam, Angel Rangel clearing Marc-Antoine Fortune's header off the line.

Fortune worked tirelessly and he was rewarded with the opening goal on 54 minutes when Jonas Olsson redirected Graham Dorrans' corner and the Frenchman took a touch before beating Michel Vorm.

Baggies fans barely had time to enjoy Fortune's strike before they were pegged back by Gylfi Sigurdsson, who swept home from six yards after an incisive Swans counter-attack. Sigurdsson was then allowed time to stride through and cross for Danny Graham to complete the turnaround.

Odemwingie should have spared Albion's blushes but the Nigeria ace lifted a shot over and plunged his head into his hands.

Vorm enjoyed a slice of luck in stoppage-time when Fortune's shot hit him and trickled the wrong side of the post. But Hodgson's men got what they deserved and the boos that greeted the final whistle were a clear verdict on their afternoon's work.

Three precious points follow Cisse's red mist

WOLVES claimed their first Premier League victory in 10 matches – thanks to a moment of madness from rival striker Djibril Cisse.

QPR were one up and in charge when Roger Johnson clattered into the volatile French international.

But Cisse's reaction, grabbing the Wolves defender by the throat, brought an inevitable red card on Saturday and handed the Molineux men a route back into the game.

QPR 1 Wolves 2

Goals by Matt Jarvis and Kevin Doyle then produced a precious victory.

It would be wrong to presume this morale-lifting victory has fixed everything for manager Mick McCarthy, ***writes Martin Swain.***

There was still QPR's obvious superiority before Cisse's red card during which Bobby Zamora gave them the lead. And when the home side threw caution to the wind in the final 15 minutes, they threatened Wayne Hennessey a little too easily for comfort.

Sharpness

But there were big positives for Wolves, too, even if nothing could outweigh the three points that took them out of the bottom three.

Sebastien Bassong's debut was hugely encouraging, though it may be a lack of match sharpness that saw him switch-off for the millisecond which enabled Zamora to get ahead of him for Rangers' 16th-minute goal.

And goodness knows how much of a lift Doyle will have gained from not just his match-winning goal but his second-half contribution as a substitute. Doyle's reaction to his goal told you everything you needed to know about his frustrations.

But pride of place must go to Jamie O'Hara after seven weeks out and with only 45 minutes of reserve football behind him.

Yet it all may have been a different story had Cisse not indulged himself in an ill-disciplined reaction to a foul challenge by Roger Johnson.

Wolves needed to get to the break to allow the match to cool down and take the sting out of QPR's inevitable efforts to get the numbers levelled up.

It was as if Wolves were taking out a month-and-a-half's frustration on Rangers' 10-men, creating the perfect launch-pad with a bit of vintage Jarvis within a minute of the re-start to claim the equaliser.

Steven Fletcher hit the bar but a second seemed inevitable and it was no surprise that O'Hara's service did the trick.

Doyle will gain enormously from this moment.

So, I suspect, will Wolves.

Roger Johnson's poorly-timed tackle catches Djibril Cisse

Cisse grabs Johnson to earn a straight red

Welborn prepares for title defence

DUDLEY boxer Jason Welborn will take centre stage as Wolverhampton Civic Hall stages its second professional boxing show in as many months in March.

After Saturday's Prizefighter show, area champion Jason Welborn will make a first defence of his Midlands welterweight crown against Coventry's James Flinn on March 23.

Welborn unseated Coventry's Sean McKervey in just two rounds for the title at Walsall Town Hall in November and puts his power against Flinn's skill.

The two-time British Masters champion has just one defeat on a 12-fight pro record, an English title loss against Adil Anwar last time out in November.

Anwar will now be a part of Prizefighter but Flinn is also coming to the Civic, as he looks to get his career back on track at Welborn's expense.

The main event is one of two title fights on the card, as Tipton's Lee Glover and Ian Bailey go for the vacant British Masters super bantamweight belt.

The two have been on a collision course since the back end of last year.

Two six-rounders are also on the bill as former English lightweight champion Martin Gethin and Birmingham's Thomas Costello face international opposition.

Joining them are dynamic Dudley featherweights Dean Anderson and Zak the Ripper – real name Saquib Amir.

Hard-hitting Stafford middleweight Grant Cunningham, Stourbridge's Steven Pearce and Brierley Hill's Karl Spencer make up the rest of the card.

For tickets, call the box office on 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Double silver for Marston

THE Warwick University Senior Open judo championships grows stronger every year. But Kidderminster Samurai Judo Club's Frankie Marston, aged just 14, made her senior debut and took silver in both her own weight group and the one above.

Marston made her way to the final of the under-52kg category with some spectacular throws before losing to a former British squad player. She also reached the under-57kg final.

SPORT

Away day victory
Wolves take Loftus Road game by the throat
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Not so sweet home
Another Albion giveaway at The Hawthorns
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Sports Desk 01902 319461 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Making all the right moves for Karate Kid

DUDLEY'S Thomas 'Karate Kid' Hickman has been playing it by the book ahead of his trip to Azerbaijan for the junior European championships.

He is heading to his first major tournament since becoming a world champion in Malaysia four months ago, taking the junior kumite title at 76kg.

Hickman, aged 17, has also won the Western International Championship in Weston-Super-Mare.

The second dan black belt also took the junior and senior titles in his weight class at the Porto Open in Portugal.

And Hickman has now been immortalised in a book about karate published by nine-time world champion Wayne Otto.

He has put together the words and Hickman demonstrates the techniques.

Committed

The two spent most of the festive period working on the book.

They were holed up at Inspire Gym, Brierley Hill with Otto visiting from America, explained trainer Paul Campbell.

He said Otto always trained with Hickman when he came over from America to visit.

"Tom was with him at the club over Christmas and on New Year's Day – he's very, very committed," Campbell said.

"When Tom won the world title in Malaysia, Wayne was the first person he ran to."

Campbell said Hickman was the man to beat at the championships.

European champion Jus Marcac came off second best in a close fight in the world championships – and the Slovenian will be out for revenge.

Campbell said of Hickman: "I am confident that, if he gets through the first round, he will walk it."

Closing in on a final chance

SCHOOLS have just over three weeks left to qualify for the Black Country School Games Festival.

The event, organised by the Black Country Local Organising Committee, will be held across three venues – the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus, Tipton Sports Academy and Wood Green Academy. It is funded by Sport England. Details: www.blackcountryschool games.co.uk

Lyndsey Glover and Rory Davies celebrate their selection

Pair picked for country

TEENAGE Black Country footballers are proudly wearing the three lions on their shirts after appearing for England.

Rory Davies, aged 17, from Dudley, and Lyndsey Glover, 18, from Coseley, have both taken their bow on the international stage.

The two have been selected for British Colleges Sport England men's and women's squads.

The pair are both studying BTEC sport at Dudley College.

And they have already played in their first match this year against Australia.

Although both sides lost, the players are gearing up for their next matches against Wales.

They are the third and fourth footballers from Dudley College to play for England, following the success of Chris Knights and Tyree Clarke.

Lyndsey is pleased to be adding to the three caps she gained last year while Rory, who has been picked for the first time this year, said it was a dream come true to play for his country. The in-form Davies recently scored in a 4-1 win over Walsall FC Scholars.

He said: "I have been in good form for the college side and the coaches at Dudley really believe in me and have pushed me hard to reach this level. I now want to score for my country."

Dudley College was awarded Focus College status in summer 2010 by the FA and British College Sport.

SAXONS TO TARGET WINNING CHANCES

STOURBRIDGE director of rugby Neil Mitchell believes he must box clever if the Saxons are to avoid relegation from English National League One this season.

Following their 16th defeat of the season against second-placed Ealing, Stourbridge now find themselves locked in a relegation battle along with fellow strugglers Barking and Birmingham and Solihull.

And to make matters more difficult, next up for Stourbridge is a trip to leaders Jersey.

Mitchell admitted: "I have to be practical with the game at Jersey and instead start targeting the ones I think we can win.

"We've got some winnable games coming up at our place, the next of which is Cinderford on February 18," he added.

"That one is a must-win match for us.

"We're using the best players that I've got available at the moment.

"But two or three of them are already carrying injuries.

Adrift

"At the moment we're only training once a week, the other time is spent getting the injured players patched up.

"I can't afford to pick up any more injuries at Jersey," said Mitchell.

"We're 13 points adrift at the moment and that's a great deal to catch up.

"However, we've eight games left after Jersey and that's 40 points available," he said.

The Saxons chief added that he was ready to change things around for the end of season run-in.

"I've one or two players to bring in, reinforcements you might say," he admitted.

Stourbridge Saxons

"But I can't name any of them at the moment simply because they haven't informed their own clubs yet.

"At the moment, it seems as though everything is conspiring against us on the pitch.

"Everything seems to be going the way of the opposition.

"However, I always knew it was going to be a tough battle this season.

"We just have to remain completely focused on the games ahead."

Jersey have won 15 games in a row to go five points clear at the top of National One.

But they were pushed all the way at Stourton earlier in the season before finally edging the points in a 19-18 thriller.

Mike Le Bourgeois bagged all the Islanders' points in that October clash but has missed the last three Jersey games with a hamstring injury.

The Saxons' tries came from Nathan Bressington and Ben Barkley.

Lions are padding along towards Twickenham

Stourbridge Lions will play Sleaford in the Midlands semi-final of the National Senior Vase on Saturday

STOURBRIDGE Lions are hoping to roar themselves a step nearer to Twickenham on Saturday.

The Lions, the amateur side of Stourbridge Rugby Club, are having a tremendous run in both the North Midlands Shield and the Midlands Senior Vase. They are unbeaten in both cup competitions this season.

And in the National Senior Vase, for teams playing league rugby at level eight, the Lions have beaten Rugby St Andrews, Evesham and Old Leamingtonians to reach the semi-final of the Midlands division. The eventual winner of the Midlands Division will be drawn against one of the winners of the London and South East division, the North division and the South West division in the national semi-finals. The final is played at Twickenham.

On Saturday Stourbridge host Sleaford RFC at Stourton Park in the Midlands semi-final.

Admission is free and the game kicks off at 3pm.

A pre-game meal is available at the club, one course £8.95 or two courses £10.95. Call the club office on 01384 395000 for details.

Stourbridge Lions Seconds and Thirds are also in action with local derby Merit table games against Bromsgrove Thirds and Fourths respectively.

The club is also staging a real ale festival, running tomorrow (February 10) from midday to midnight with the same hours on Saturday. Entry on Friday is £10, to include a glass, programme and token for four half-pints. Entry on Saturday is free.

A new era as opener takes over at Old Hill

DANNY COX has been charged with leading Old Hill CC into a new era.

The 19-year-old opening batsman will captain the first team for this season's Birmingham League Division One campaign following the departure of skipper Nathan Round.

He, along with Dan Wood and Ashfak Hussain, has opted to join Premier Division outfit Himley.

"It's a challenge I am really looking forward to," said Cox, who played two first-class games for Loughborough MCCU last summer and also represented Herefordshire at Minor Counties level.

"It's a new era for the club. A few players have left and it's important to get everyone pulling together.

"We are trying to stabilise things and get the club moving in the right direction."

Old Hill will need to fill the void left by the departures of top-order batsman Round, opening bowler Hussain and middle order batter Wood.

Cox has recruited Oldswinford seamer Seb Soukoup and wants the club's younger players to step up. "We have lost some good players but that presents opportunities," he said.

How's that for a family fun event?

WINTER may have gripped sport at the weekend but Stourbridge Cricket Club is already looking forward to spring.

Last year more than 1,500 people attended a family fun day at the club, and this year's event will be held on Sunday, May 6.

Attractions for the young ones will include a treasure hunt, fun fair, stalls, bouncy castles, Zorbing, TV characters and a fun bus.

Adults can enjoy music from 102.5 The 'Bridge FM, displays, exhibitions, a market area and club bar.

There will be displays from community groups including dance, martial arts and cheerleading. To book a stall or for more details call Mark on 07506 747619.

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